

Fruits Basket™

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Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket

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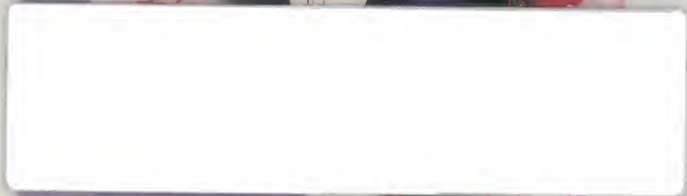


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A family with an ancient curse...
And the girl who will change their lives forever...

Ever since Tohru Honda discovered the Zodiac secret of the Sohma clan, her eyes have been opened to a world of magic and wonder. But with such a great secret comes great responsibility. When her best friends Hana-chan and Uo-chan come to the Sohma house for a sleepover, Tohru has her work cut out for her keeping the "Cat" in the bag and the "Dog" on a leash.



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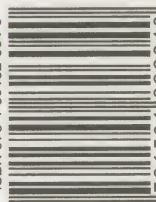
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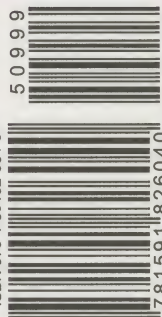
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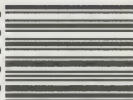


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Fruits Basket

Volume 2



Natsuki Takaya

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Fruits Basket Characters

Shigure Sohma

The enigmatic Shigure keeps a house outside of the Sohma estate where he lives with Yuki, Kyo and Tohru. He may act perverted at times, but he has a good heart. His Zodiac spirit is the Dog.



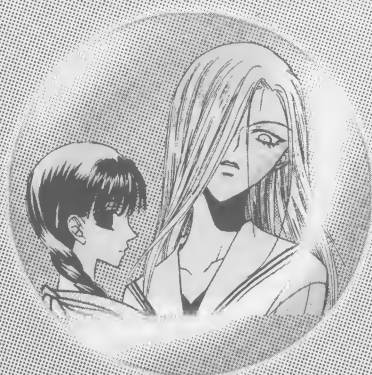
Kagura Sohma

Stubborn and jealous as her zodiac symbol, the boar, Kagura is determined to marry Kyo...even if she kills him in the process.



Hanajima & Arisa

The two best friends a girl could hope for. They always look out for Tohru, but they don't know about her new living arrangements...yet.



Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. Recently orphaned, Tohru has taken up residence in Shigure Sohma's house, along with Yuki and Kyo. She's the only person outside of the Sohma family who knows about their Zodiac curse.

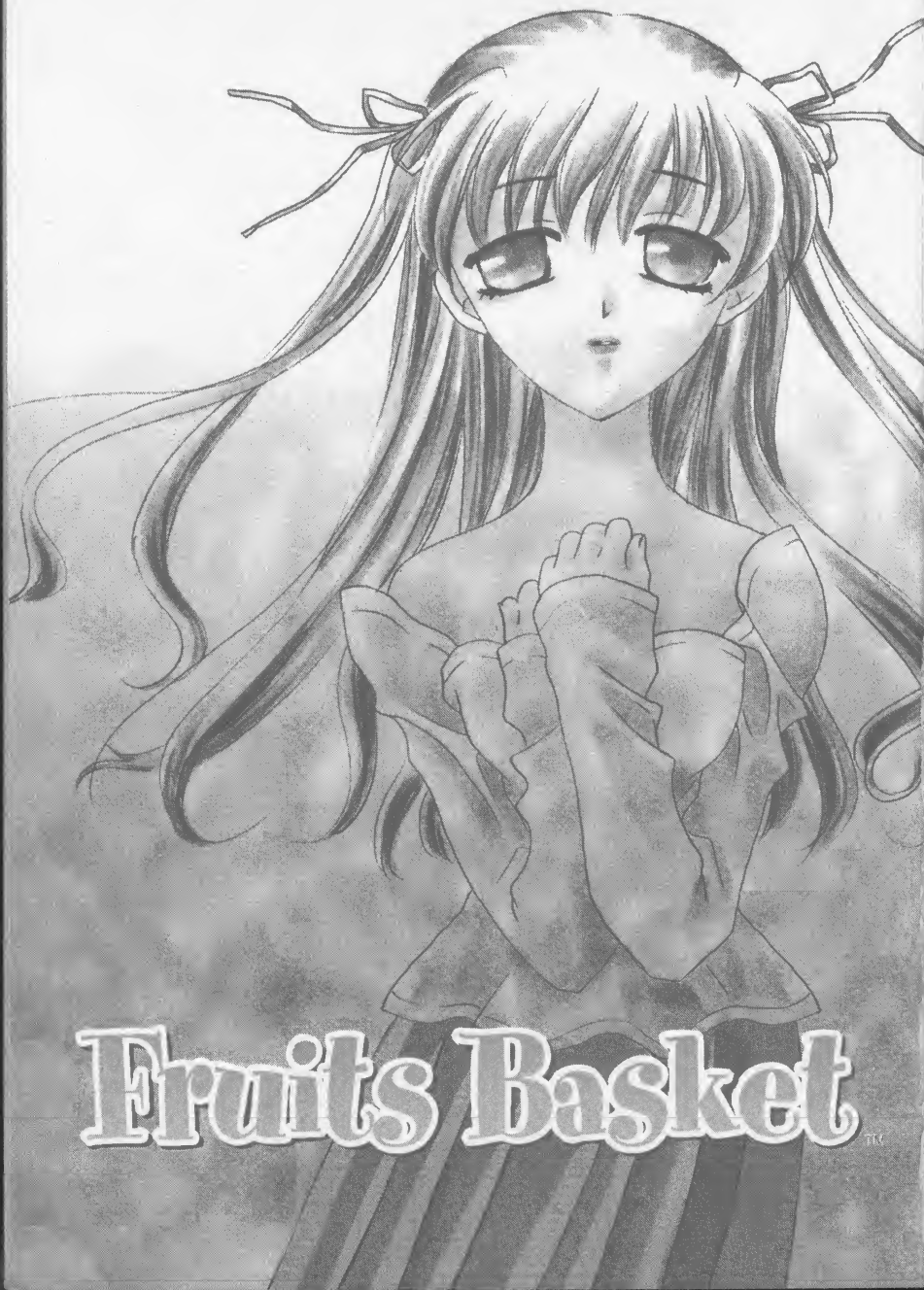
Yuki Sohma

At school he's known as Prince Charming. Polite and soft-spoken, he's the polar opposite of Kyo. Yuki is possessed by the spirit of the Rat.



Kyo Sohma

Just as the Cat of legend (whose spirit possesses him) was left out of the Zodiac, Kyo is ostracized by the Sohma family. His greatest wish in life is to defeat Yuki in battle and win his rightful place in the zodiac.



STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in.

I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac.

Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!





ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 1

I get a lot of letters from people asking me to teach them how to play Dai Hinmin. The way I learned was by playing the video game Sakura Wars 2! (ha ha) But the rules I learned were Sakura rules, so I don't think they're the actual rules. Maybe they're regional rules, or something like that. Like how in Final Fantasy VIII, the card game rules change in each city you visit.

Omake Theater: That's right. Hana-chan is an older sister.



MEMBERS
OF THE
SOHMA
FAMILY
SHARE A
TERRIBLE
SECRET.

THEY ARE
POSSESSED
BY THE
SPIRITS OF
THE CHINESE
ZODIAC.

I'M A
PERMANENT
GUEST IN
THE SOHMA
HOUSEHOLD.

SHIGURE-SAN,
SOHMA-KUN...

THIS STRANGE
CONDITION
CAUSES THEM
TO TRANSFORM
INTO AN ANIMAL
WHEN THEY'RE
HUGGED BY A
MEMBER OF THE
OPPOSITE SEX.

Damn
Yuki.
Damn
Yuki.

...KYO-KUN'
AND I
ALL
LIVE
HERE
TOGETHER.

HEY,
YOU
TWO!

IF YOU
HAVE TIME
TO FIGHT,
YOU'RE NOT
WORKING
HARD
ENOUGH!

This
stack is
lighter.

SHE'S
ONLY
MOVING
THOSE
BOOKS...

...SO
WE CAN
TURN
SHIGURE'S
LIBRARY
INTO YOUR
ROOM.

I
DIDN'T
ASK
FOR
HER
HELP.

I TOLD YOU
YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO
HELP.

ARE
YOU
OKAY?!

HONDA-
SAN!

YES...
BUT
SHIGURE-
SAN'S
BOOKS...

HELLO.
I'M
TOHRLI
HONDA.

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WITH THE
MESSED UP
PERSONALITY,
DAMMIT!

PERHAPS
IF YOU'D
JUST DIE,
YOU'D BE
REINCARNATED
AS SOMETHING
MORE
PLEASANT.

DAMN
RAT!



'SUP?

HELLO ...

THIS IS ARISA UOTANI-SAN AND SAKI HANAJIMA-SAN.

THEY'RE MY BEST FRIENDS!



WELL THEN.

HELLO-
♥



I DON'T MIND, JUST AS LONG AS YOU DON'T TELL THEM ABOUT THE ZODIAC SPIRITS.

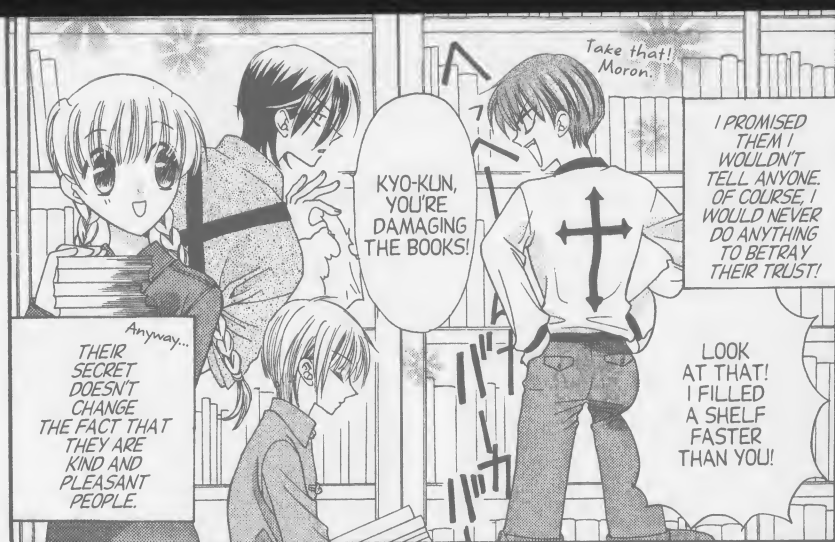
HMM...

...WHEN I ASKED IF I COULD TELL THE TWO OF THEM WHERE I WAS STAYING.

IT ALL STARTED THREE DAYS AGO...

WHY ARE LO-CHAN AND HANA-CHAN HERE?

Begin Flashback



Take that! Moron.

KYO-KUN, YOU'RE DAMAGING THE BOOKS!

I PROMISED THEM I WOULDN'T TELL ANYONE. OF COURSE, I WOULD NEVER DO BETRAY THEIR TRUST!

Anyway...
THEIR SECRET DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THEY ARE KIND AND PLEASANT PEOPLE.

LOOK AT THAT! I FILLED A SHELF FASTER THAN YOU!



THEY'RE HERE!

AH.

TODAY...

...WE'RE HAVING VISITORS!

WELCOME! DID YOU FIND THE HOUSE ALL RIGHT?!

LET ME...

...INTRODUCE YOU ALL AGAIN!



I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO...

...FINDING OUT WHAT KIND OF FUN THINGS WILL HAPPEN NEXT!

DING DONG



I
THOUGHT
...

...YOU'D BEEN
SPENDING
A LOT OF
TIME WITH
PRINCE
CHARMING
AND
ORANGEY.

...NOW
I GET IT.

IT'S
A BIT
OF A
SHOCK,
THAT'S
ALL.

I WONDER
WHAT
WOULD
HAPPEN IF
THE YUKI
SOHMA FANS
WERE TO
FIND OUT...?

TO
MAKE
SURE
IT'S A
SUITABLE
ENVIRONMENT
FOR YOU.

EH?

GOOD CALL.
I MEAN,
WE HAVE
TO BE
CONSIDERATE.

WAIT...IF
WE DROP IN
UNANNOUNCED,
THEY MIGHT
NOT HAVE
ANY SNACKS
FOR US...

THAT'S A
GREAT
IDEA,
HANAJIMA!

LET'S
GO
TODAY!

YOU
REALIZE
WE'RE
GOING TO
HAVE TO
COME
OVER.

SHIGURE-
SAN'S
FACE
DROPPED
A BIT...

...BUT I
THINK
HE WAS
OKAY
AFTER I
EXPLAINED.

What?!

SO
LET ME
GET
THIS
STRAIGHT.

YOU WERE
LIVING IN A TENT
IN THE WOODS.
BUT NOW YOU'RE
LIVING WITH
PRINCE CHARMING
AND ANGER
MANAGEMENT
BOY? SERIOUSLY?!

YES...
I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T
TELL YOU
UNTIL NOW.

THEY'RE
GOOD
PEOPLE.
PLEASE
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT ME.

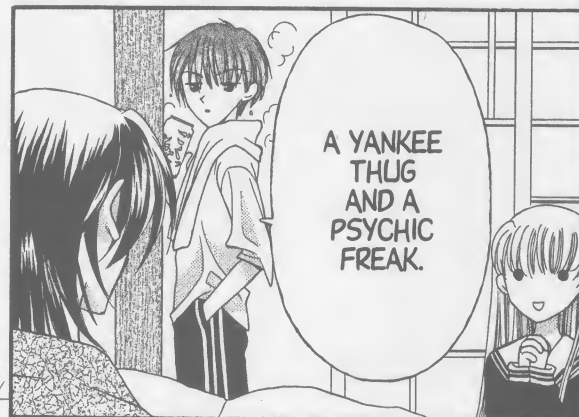
IT WAS
KIND OF
COMPLICATED,
BUT NOW
EVERYTHING
IS FINE!



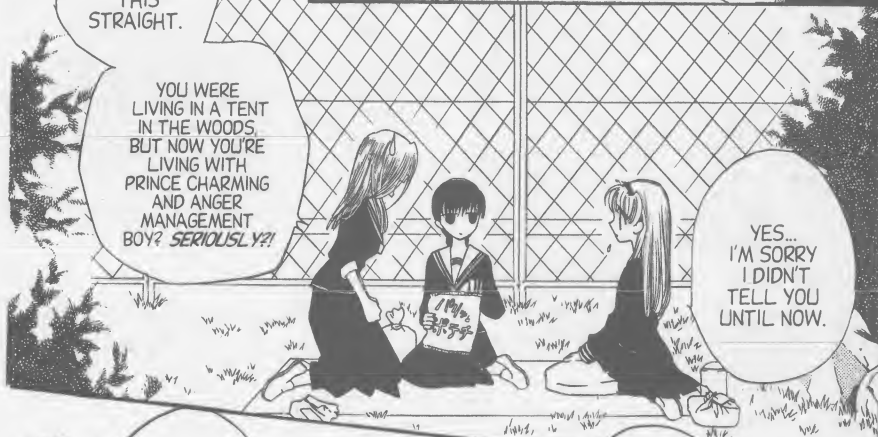
I CAN'T WAIT
TO SEE
WHAT KIND
OF GIRLS
THESE
FRIENDS OF
YOURS ARE!

THANK YOU
SO MUCH!

Ah!



A YANKEE
THUG
AND A
PSYCHIC
FREAK.





HEY,
YOU'RE...

OVER
THERE...

EH?

YOU'RE
RIGHT.
BAD DOG!
YOU
CAN'T
COME IN
HERE!

AH! OH.

...SHIGURE-
SAN,
RIGHT?
WHAT
DO YOU
DO FOR
A LIVING?



YOU'RE A
NOVELIST?!

OH,
ME?

I WRITE...
I'M A
NOVELIST.

YOU
NEVER
ASKED
DID YOU?

WHY ARE
YOU SO
SURPRISED?!



PSST!
ARE
YOU
OUT OF
YOUR
MIND,
SHIGURE?

I DON'T
THINK
THIS IS A
GOOD IDEA.
THAT GOT
GIRL SEES
WAVES OR
SOMETHING.

HA
HA
HA

QUE
SERÁ SERÁ.
EVERYTHING
WILL BE
FINE.
REALLY,
KYO, YOU
WORRY TOO
MUCH.

NO,
SHIGURE,
YOU
REALLY
ARE OUT
OF YOUR
MIND.



...A
DOG.



PLEASE,
MAKE
YOUR-
SELVES
AT HOME.



THIS
WEEKEND,
WE'RE
STAYING
AT YOUR
PLACE.

THAT
SETTLES
IT.

SO...

...NOW
IT'S THE
WEEKEND.

End of Flashback

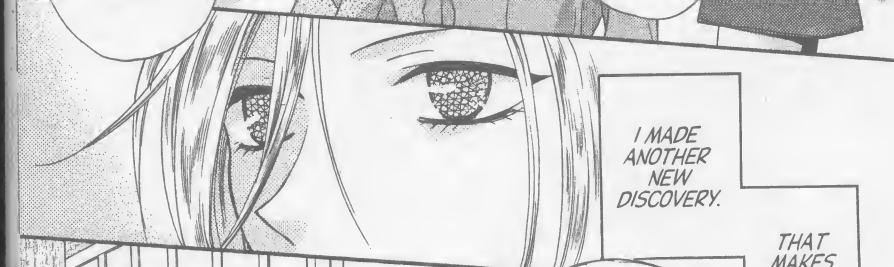


DOESN'T SHIGURE ALREADY HAVE A SWELLED HEAD?

HONDA-SAN... YOU'D BETTER STOP OR HE'LL GET A SWELLED HEAD.

TO THINK I'VE BEEN THIS CLOSE TO A NOVELIST...

Impressed



I MADE ANOTHER NEW DISCOVERY.

THAT MAKES ME HAPPY!



PLEASE WAIT HERE A MINUTE!

OH YEAH!

I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING REALLY FUN!

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE WORK TO DO.

YOU KIDS HAVE FUN.

TOHRLU?



THIS IS THE REAL ONE!

OH, I'M SORRY. WRONG ONE.

Oops!

WHAT WAS IT? BELLES LETTRES?

I Had no idea.

Now that I think of it, he is home during the week...

YUP. THAT'S RIGHT.

I WRITE THESE.

THIS IS A BOOK I PUT OUT ON A LARK.

DOESN'T THAT STILL MEAN YOU WROTE IT?!

FOR ONCE, I AGREE WITH YOU.

WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT BEING A PERV?

THAT'S AMAZING!

*Book: "We can't go back to that summer, but we can always remember...A naughty love story unfolds."

花白ナルス
夏色の吐息 1





WE
DIDN'T
KNOW...

TOHRU
WAS SUFFERING
ALL BY
HERSELF.

HMPH.
SOME
FRIENDS
WE ARE.
WE REALLY
LET HER
DOWN.



SHE
WOULDN'T
WORRY
ABOUT
STUFF
LIKE
THAT.



THERE
HAVE BEEN
PLENTY
OF TIMES
WHEN SHE
STUCK UP
FOR US.

SO
THIS TIME...
NOT HAVING
THE CHANCE
TO RETURN
THE FAVOR...

...IT'S A
BIG
DEAL
TO US.



...THAT
WE
WOULD
LOOK OUT
FOR TOHRU.

...WE
SWORE
ON
KYOKO-
SAN'S
GRAVE...

MAYBE
THAT
WOULDN'T
BE A
BIG DEAL
TO SOME
PEOPLE...

...BUT
TOHRU
WAS
OUR
FIRST
FRIEND.

WE
LOVE
HER.



HMPH.
THAT
TOHRU...

LOOKS
LIKE SHE'S
PRETTY
USED TO
LIVING HERE.

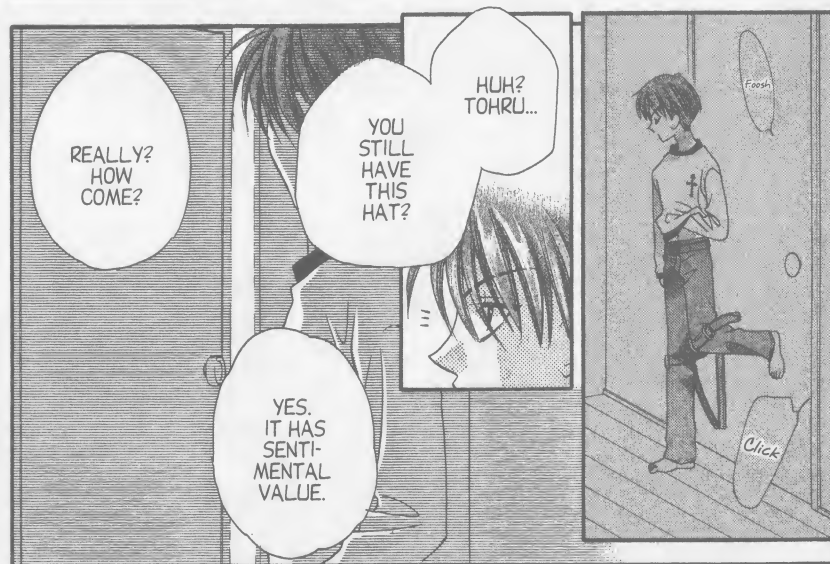
I'M GLAD...
AND I
UNDERSTAND
WHY SHE
WAS WORRIED
ABOUT
TELLING US...

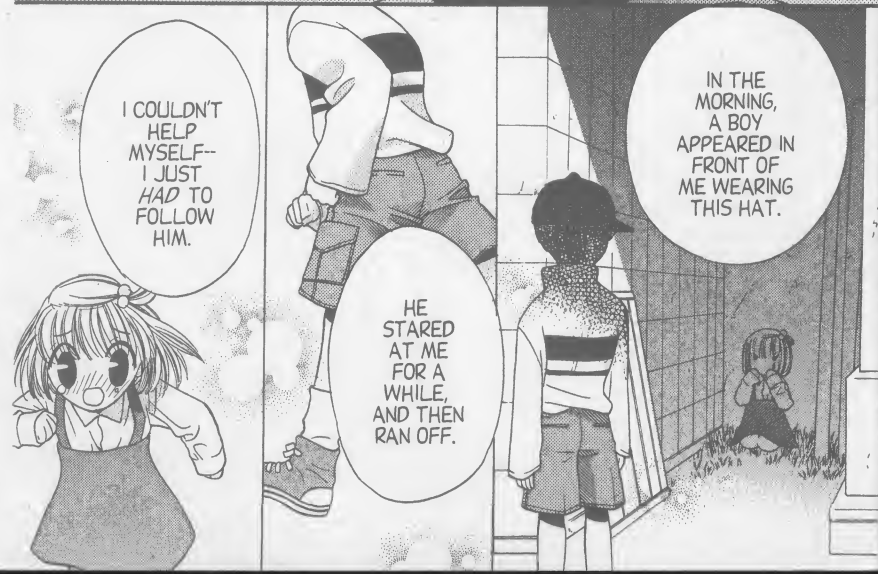
...BUT...

Fruits Basket 2 Part 1:

Nice to meet you and hello. This is Takaya. This is volume 2 of Fruits Basket. It's Prince Charming this time (ha!). This is a bit sudden, but how does everyone shorten the title? Furuba? Furubasu? FB? ...I like "FB"; it's kind of like FF (Final Fantasy!) And Furuba makes me think "Furuba=furui basho," which means "old town" and Furubasu makes me think "Furubasu=furui basu," which means "old bus" (ha!)! Let's agree to shorten it as Furuba. Now, please enjoy volume 2 of Furuba (ha ha)!









OF COURSE, BY NOW...

...HE'S PROBABLY FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT.

YOU NEVER KNOW. IT'S A SMALL WORLD.

WELL, IF I DID MEET HIM, I'D WANT TO THANK HIM.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHAT A WONDERFUL MEMORY.

IT WOULD BE AN EVEN BETTER STORY...

...IF YOU MET HIM AGAIN AND FELL IN LOVE!

Ha Ha!
I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.



BUT EACH TIME...

...HE WOULD WAIT FOR ME.

HE WAS A MYSTERIOUS BOY.

THEN I REALIZED...

I WENT TO THANK HIM, BUT I COULDN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE.

THE ONLY PROOF THAT HE WAS EVER THERE AT ALL WAS THE HAT HE GAVE ME.

...THAT HE HAD LED ME HOME.



...HANA-CHAN
AND
LIO-CHAN...

...AND
I HAVE...

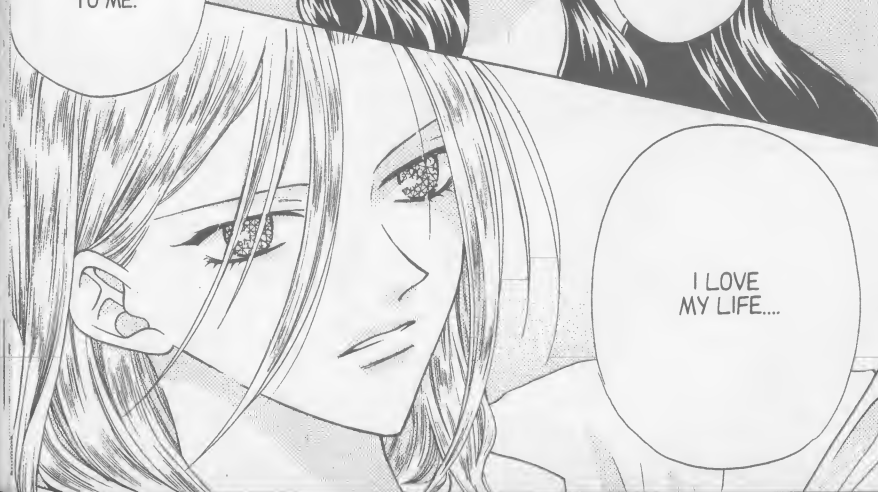
...THE TWO
BEST
FRIENDS
IN THE
WORLD...



...HAVE
BEEN
SUCH A
SUPPORT
TO ME.

...WHO ARE
ALWAYS
THERE
FOR ME.

YOU TWO...



I LOVE
MY LIFE....



.....
YOU
POOR
GIRL..



YOU'VE
HAD A
TOUGH TIME
EVER SINCE
YOU WERE
LITTLE,
HUH?



THAT'S
NOT
TRUE
AT ALL!



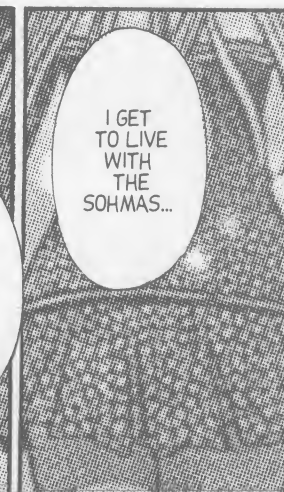
SIGH...
IN A
WAY...

THAT
BOY...

...WAS
MY
FIRST
LOVE.



...I HAD A
MOTHER
WHO
LOVED
ME VERY
MUCH...



I GET
TO LIVE
WITH
THE
SOHMAS...



I'M
ALWAYS
BEING
REMIND...

...OF
HOW
LUCKY
I'VE BEEN.



AND ONE WHO
TREASURES...

...BEING
WHERE
SHE IS NOW.

WE HAVE
AN
UNRIVALED
FRIEND-
SHIP...

DON'T
WE?

YUP!



.....



EH?

THEY
UNDERSTAND.

YES...

...TOHRU-KUN
IS THAT
KIND OF
PERSON.

...AND I LOVE
YOU BOTH.

THE KIND
WHO
FOCUSES ON
WHAT
SHE HAS...

...NOT
WHAT
SHE'S
MISSING.

"SHE
WOULDN'T
SEE IT
THAT WAY."

"SHE ISN'T
THE TYPE
TO SEE
HER LIFE..."

...AS A
GLASS
HALF-EMPTY."



I HATE
THAT
DAMN RA--

AND
THAT
MEANS
HE'S
ALWAYS
GOING
EASY
ON ME.

HE'S
THICK-
SKINNED
AND COLD-
HEARTED.

HE
DOESN'T
EVEN
HAVE TO
TRY!



FINE,
DAMMIT.
SEE IF I CARE!
BUT I'M
TAKING YOU
DOWN ONE OF
THESE DAYS,
YOU HEAR
ME?!

Trash
can

YOUR
STUPID
VOICE
WOKE
ME UP.

HEY!
WEREN'T
YOU
ASLEEP?!

WHAT
ARE YOU
BABBLING
ABOUT THIS
EARLY IN THE
MORNING?

I WON'T
STOP
UNTIL
I DEFEAT
YOU!



GAH.

HEY,
YUKI!

YOU...

...YOU...
THAT IS...



HE'S
EVEN
STRONGER
WHEN
HE'S
SLEEPING.

SOHMA-KUN
ISN'T A
MORNING
PERSON,
IS HE?

Good
morning.

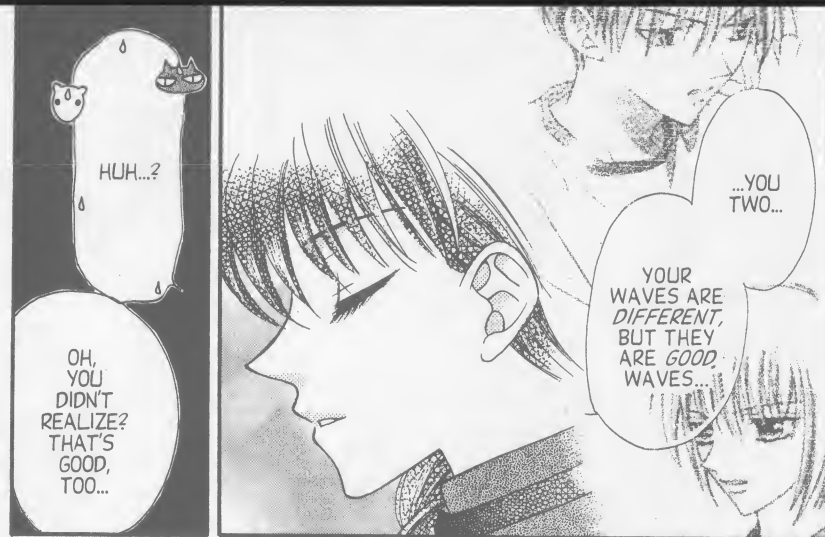
WAKE UP,
DAMMIT!

He's
already
tried.

THAT'S
NOT
QUITE
IT...

EVEN
THOUGH
YOU WANTED
TO HIT HIM,
YOU
WOULDN'T
ATTACK
SOHMA-KUN
IN HIS SLEEP!

BUT I'M
IMPRESSED,
KYO-KUN.



OH, YOU DIDN'T REALIZE? THAT'S GOOD, TOO...



...SINCE
TOHRU-KUN
CAME...

...YUKI
AND
KYO
HAVE
MATURED.

I WOULD
LIKE TO
SEE THEM
CONTINUE
IN THAT
DIRECTION.

OF COURSE,
KNOWING YOU,
YOU
PROBABLY
THINK
THE WHOLE
PLAN'S
DOOMED
TO FAIL.

It's the
beginning
of the
banquet.

Wherever
the journey
might
lead...

Where's
Shigure?

I
think
he
went
out.



I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
HAVING
WOMEN
OVER
SO MUCH...

OH,
I PROMISE
I'LL BE
VERY
CAREFUL
WITH YOUR
SECRET!

UO-CHAN
AND
HANA-CHAN
ARE
REALLY...

...REALLY
GOOD
PEOPLE.
SO...

...SO, UM...

Yes,
breakfast.

Now
let's get
breakfast.

YES...I'D LIKE
TO FURTHER
INVESTIGATE
THE STRANGE
WAVES COM-
ING FROM THE
SOHMA HOUSE.

WE'LL
COME
BY
AGAIN
SOON.

HEY
HEY
HEY!



DAMMIT
...

JUST
DO
WHAT
YOU
WANT.

THEY'RE
YOUR
FRIENDS,
HONDA-SAN.



Chapter 8

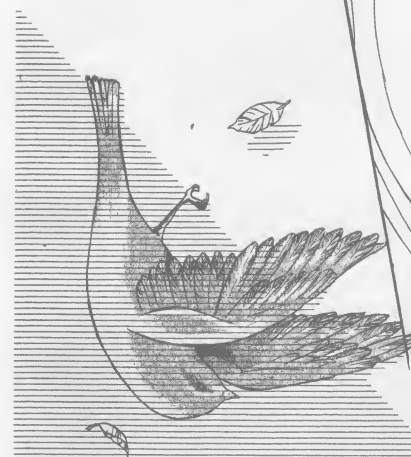
...even God
doesn't
know.

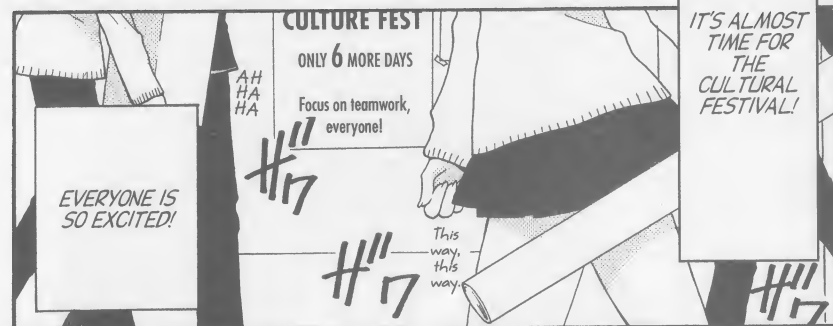
I FEEL
SORRY
FOR YOU...

TOHRU-KUN
IS A DOZEN
TIMES A
BETTER
PERSON
THAN
YOU ARE.

I AM
WELL
AWARE
OF WHEN
MY GLASS
IS HALF
EMPTY.

Whether
good or ill
will come
of this
venture...





ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 2

If you'd like to know what Momiji is saying in German, he says, "What a surprise! How lucky!" "Nice to meet you," "I'm so happy to meet you," and "You're so cute!". This will all make sense shortly! (Ha ha!)

Fruits Basket 2 Part 2:

I'll start from the beginning. This is the story of a video game. That's right, Final Fantasy 8. This has spoilers in it, so if you are in the middle the game or plan on playing it, I recommend that you not read this. Okay? Here I go. Let's go back one game first. I played FF7, and beat it normally. (Oy.) I think, somehow, it was special. I've been playing FF since number 4, but the first time I broke down crying was 7. I had never cried about a game before. It still makes me cry. Whenever I hear Aeris's theme, I cry. And of course I think it's stupid to keep crying, but still. Such sadness and pain and helplessness—why couldn't I have done more? To be continued...





YOU THINK IT'S FUN?! ONE TIME WHEN I WAS GOING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS WITH KAGURA...

WOW... HOW FUN.

IT'S SO CUTE...! CATS REALLY DO LIKE YOU, DON'T THEY?

...WE WERE SURROUNDED BY DOZENS OF WILD BOARS. I THOUGHT WE'D BE EATEN!

HA HA!

LIKE I'D KNOW. THEY JUST CAME TO ME.

WITH THE DOG IT'S DOGS, WITH THE RAT IT'S RATS.



ARE YOU ANGRY ABOUT SOMETHING?

NOTHING, I WAS JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

ANYWAY, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Is it that funny ...?



DON'T YOU WANT TO HELP GET READY FOR THE CULTURE FEST?



THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF PRINCE CHARMING.



YOU ALWAYS ALWAYS SNEAK UP ON ME...

KYO-KUN, YOU REALLY LIKE HIGH PLACES, DON'T YOU?

AH! HELLO, MR. KITTY.



WAH!

I FOUND YOU!

I KNEW YOU'D BE HERE!



"CHILDREN
BORN
IN THE YEAR
OF THE RAT
ARE SPECIAL."

"OF COURSE
HE'S SPECIAL."

I'M
SPECIAL,
TOO.

THAT
PUNK...

"ESPECIALLY
COMPARED
TO THE CAT
BOY..."



...IT'S
NOT FAIR.

"KYO..."

...IS
THE
TYPE
WHO
ATTRACTS
OTHERS
TO HIM."

"I'VE
OFTEN
THOUGHT
THAT EVEN
THOUGH
HE CAN'T
BE IN THE
ZODIAC..."

...HE MIGHT
BE ABLE
TO FACE
NORMAL
PEOPLE
IN A
NORMAL
BODY."



AND EVEN
THOUGH I
STARTED
STUDYING
MARTIAL
ARTS FIRST...

...HE'S A
BETTER
FIGHTER
THAN I AM.

I KNEW IT.



THEY
TRUST
HIM.

THEY
DON'T
NEED ME.

AS LONG AS
YUKI'S
THERE,
IT'LL
GO FINE.

HE'S
ALWAYS
BEEN SMART
AND WITTY
AND GOOD
WITH
PEOPLE.

PEOPLE
NATURALLY
RESPECT
HIM.





Ich freue mich,
Sie zu seherh./

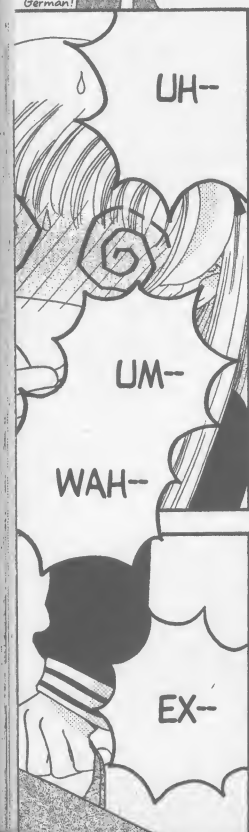
UH...

UM,
I'M SORRY,
I DON'T
SPEAK YOUR
LANGUAGE...

I
told you
there'd be
German!

!!
A
FOREIGNER?

Sehr Angenehm!!



UH-

UM-

WAH-

EX-



Sehr hübsch./



...IN THIS
BUILDING
SO LATE
AT NIGHT?

WHY IS
THERE
A BOY...

What
an
outfit...

I-D 42 Tohru Honda

I WONDER
WHO
THIS IS...?

Someone
saw me...

Oh...!
GOOD
EVE...NING...

...?
?



AH, UM,
Y-YES,
THAT'S...
RIGHT?

TOHRU
HONDA?!

TOHRU?

EH?!



Sieh do!!

Welch ein
Glück!!



I-
I'M SORRY.
IT WAS
NOTHING.

I DON'T
WANT HIM
TO WORRY...

UM...
THANK YOU
FOR ALWAYS
COMING TO
PICK ME UP.

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT...



DID
SOMETHING
HAPPEN?

DID
SOMEONE...
HARASS YOU?

HUH?!
NO...!



AH...!

IF THERE'S
ANYTHING
TROUBLING
YOU...

...YOU CAN
TELL ME
ABOUT IT.

I'LL
HELP
YOU.

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH...



A--

A
WEIRD
F-FOR-
FOR--!

A WEIRD
FORK?

HONDA-
SAN...?
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

huff

huff

whoooo



EXCUSE
ME!

Came to
pick her up



WH-WHO
WAS
HE...?

HONDA-
SAN.



HE
SURPRISED
ME. HE...
KISSED
ME!



IT WAS
A WEIRD
FOREIGNER!

WHAT
THE
HELL?



Fest...?

NOT
REALLY...
IT'S NORMAL
FOR ME.



ARE YOU
PLANNING
TO OPEN
AN ONIGIRI
SHOP OR
SOMETHING?

AH! GOOD
MORNING!

YOU'RE
ALWAYS UP
EARLY.

Ah!

KYO-KUN,
THAT'S-!

AND SO IS...

...KYO-KUN.

SOHMA-
KUN
IS
SO
KIND.



WHY
MUST
THEY...

...ENVY EACH
OTHER AND
FIGHT?

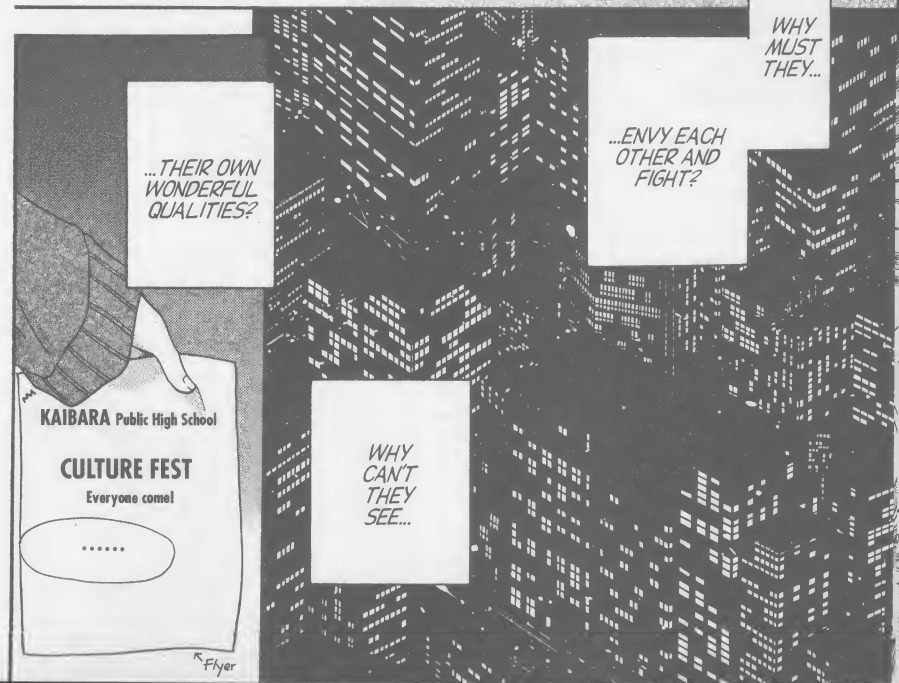
...THEIR OWN
WONDERFUL
QUALITIES?

WHY
CAN'T
THEY
SEE...

KAIBARA Public High School

CULTURE FEST

Everyone come!





LIKE ANYONE'D TRAIN FOR THAT.

...I THINK THEY WOULD BE JEALOUS OF HOW WELL YOU MOLD THEM.

IF YOU ASKED SOMEONE WHO WAS TRAINING TO PREPARE ONIGIRI...

Honestly, where do you come up with these things?



THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT IT'S A WONDERFUL THING...

Good morning, it is now 6:35.
It's a fine winter morning, and...

Pi...



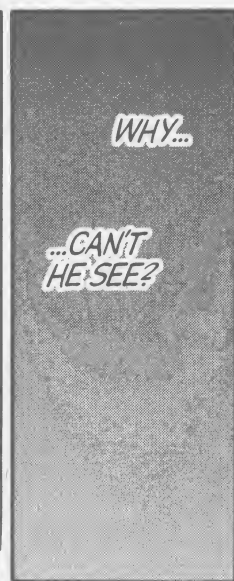
WHEN I WAS TRAINING, I MADE MY OWN MEALS.
BUT MAKING IT LOOK NICE AND HAVING IT TASTE GOOD ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

...REALLY?



...AH.

MAYBE IT'S STUCK ON HIS BACK...



WHY...

...CAN'T HE SEE?



KYO-KUN, DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS?

SALMON AND COD ROE ARE ALL THAT BELONG IN ONIGIRI!

I'LL JUST MAKE MY OWN.



-A LEEK ONIGIRI.

ER...UM... IT'S FOR THE FESTIVAL.

I WAS DOING RESEARCH FOR THE SURPRISE ONIGIRI...

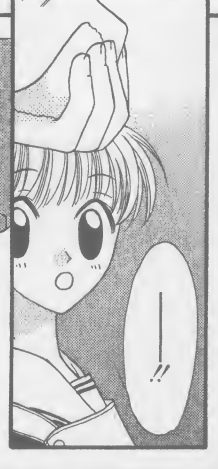
WHY WOULD YOU MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!



AH?!

THAT'S GREAT! I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED!

KYO-KUN! YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT MAKING ONIGIRI!



!!



THERE'S AN
AMAZING
UMEBOSHI...

I CAN
SEE THEM
PERFECTLY.

MAYBE...

THERE IS AN
UMEBOSHI--
ON YOUR
BACK.

I CAN
SEE
THEM,
TOO.

...ON
YOUR
BACK,
KYO-KUN.

...IS BECAUSE
THEY CAN SEE
SO CLEARLY
THE UMEBOSHI
ON OTHER
PEOPLE'S
BACKS.

...THE
REASON
PEOPLE GET
JEALOUS
OF EACH
OTHER...

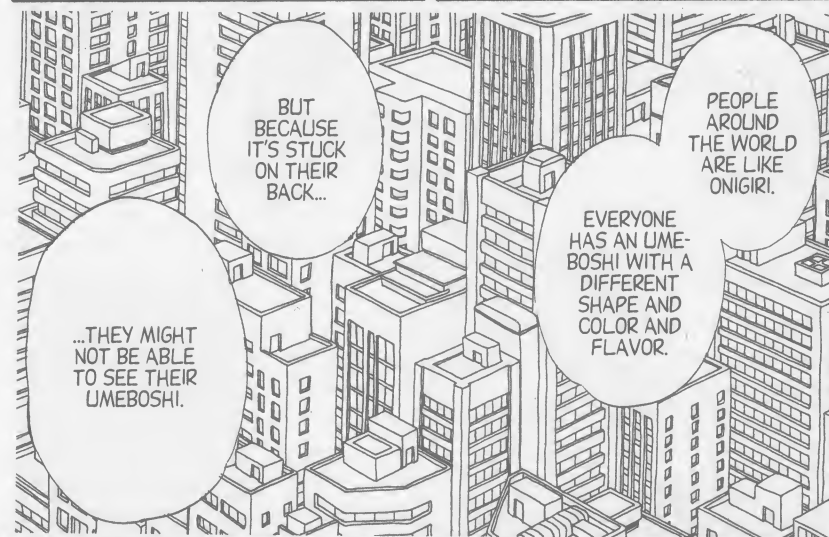


...IT'S AS IF
THEIR
QUALITIES
ARE STUCK
TO THEIR
BACK!

IF YOU
THINK OF
SOMEONE'S
GOOD
QUALITIES...

...AS THE
UMEBOSHI
IN AN ONIGIRI...

HUH?



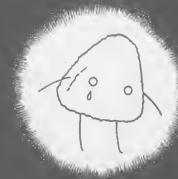
BUT
BECAUSE
IT'S STUCK
ON THEIR
BACK...

PEOPLE
AROUND
THE WORLD
ARE LIKE
ONIGIRI.

EVERYONE
HAS AN UME-
BOSHI WITH A
DIFFERENT
SHAPE AND
COLOR AND
FLAVOR.

...THEY MIGHT
NOT BE ABLE
TO SEE THEIR
UMEBOSHI.

THAT'S
NOT
TRUE.



"THERE'S
NOTHING
SPECIAL
ABOUT ME.

I'M
JUST
WHITE
RICE."



I CAN SEE IT.

...THERE'S ONE ON YOUR BACK TOO.

YOU KNOW...

AN UMEBOSHI.

EVEN NOW...



THEY MIGHT BE LONGING FOR A QUALITY THEY ALREADY POSSESS.

I love little plums!

A reeeally tiny one. It's a little plum.

Really? Really?!

...FOR SOMETHING THEY DON'T SEE IN THEMSELVES.

...SOMEONE MIGHT BE ENVYING ANOTHER...



...IS WONDERFUL, TOO.

SOHMA-KUN IS WONDERFUL.

KYO-KUN...



I-I'M SORRY. SHOULD I HAVE USED SALMON?

AND WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE AN UMEBOSHI? SOME METAPHOR!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! WHERE DO YOU COME UP WITH THAT STUFF?



...HEY.

AH! OH, THE KETTLE...

TH-



#7

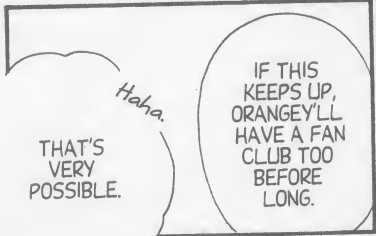
HE COMES BACK AND IT GETS ALL NOISY.

WITH HIS PERSONALITY, I'D LOVE TO SEE HIM CUT LOOSE AT A PARTY.

WHEW... HIS SECRET'S SAFE!

HE CAME BACK WITHOUT MUCH OF A FIGHT.

THAT'S UNUSUAL....



Haha.

THAT'S VERY POSSIBLE.

IF THIS KEEPS UP, ORANGEY'LL HAVE A FAN CLUB TOO BEFORE LONG.



YU-KI-KUUUUUN.



BECAUSE SOHMA-KUN IS SOHMA-KUN...

...AND KYO-KUN IS KYO-KUN.

HUH?



...HEY.

THE FRAME IS SHAKY.



IT'S FINE AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T BREAK, CAT-LOVER.

HEY, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE BUILDING A HOUSE, CAT-LOVER.

YEAH, CAT-LOVER.



OH, WE KNOW.

YOU TALK TOUGH, BUT UNDERNEATH, YOU'RE A NICE GUY WHO LOVES ANIMALS.

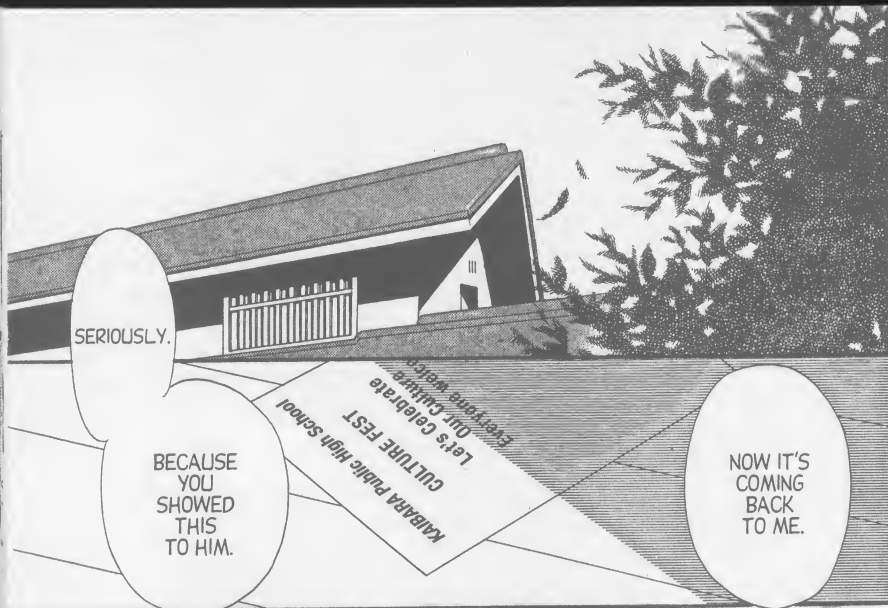
Are you making fun of me?!

WHY THE HELL DO YOU KEEP CALLING ME CAT-LOVER?!

WHEN I THINK OF IT, THAT WAY..

...EVEN JUST A LITTLE...

...I REALIZE THAT I NEED TO DO MY BEST WITH THE QUALITIES I HAVE, EVEN IF I CAN'T ALWAYS SEE WHAT THEY ARE.



SERIOUSLY.

BECAUSE
YOU
SHOWED
THIS
TO HIM.

NOW IT'S
COMING
BACK
TO ME.



MOMIJI.

YOU'VE MET
TOHRU
HONDA?

I'M SURE
YOU'LL LIKE
HER, HA'RI!

YOU
HAVEN'T
SEEN THEM
IN A WHILE
EITHER,
RIGHT,
HA'RI?

OH,
COME ON!
WE'LL
GET TO
SEE YUKI
AND KYO.

AND
TOHRU
HONDA
WILL BE
THERE,
TOO.



TA-
DAAAA
AH!

SENPAI...

ACTUALLY,
WE HAVE A
PRESENT
FOR YOU,
YUKI-KUN.

WE ALL
PITCHED IN
TO BUY THIS,
HOPING YOU'D
WEAR IT AT
THE FESTIVAL.

A COSTUME
ESPECIALLY
FOR YUKI-KUN!

EH?



Chapter 9



Fruits Basket 2 Part 3:

It seemed like that feeling had almost disappeared. FF7 was too special. At least to me. Yes, yes, back to FFB. There are people who thought the Draw system was unending agony, but I enjoyed it. Anyway, if I didn't Draw, I felt unfulfilled. I would keep Drawing and not try to advance the story. Even when I was about to die, I would keep Drawing and Drawing. Oh, that was nice (ha ha). It's fun. Uh-huh, uh-huh. The cards were fun, too. Laguna-san was cute. I liked Irvine, too. Selphie is criminally adorable.... I really love her, Sel-Sel. Sensei enjoys eating monsters like there's no tomorrow (too bad they didn't animate it). The Devour command knocked me out. I love that type of command! And I hate Omega (ha ha)! Why is he hundreds of times harder than the last boss (ha ha)?! I had to keep casting Meltdown to do any damage (ha ha).



ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 3

I've wanted to. I've wanted to do this. **CROSS-DRESSING!!** (ha ha) Until now, I've been drawing stories that don't have any room for it, so with Furuba, I thought, "You will do it, Yuki!" (Mind out of the gutter!) But boys with feminine faces are destined to cross-dress (or be made to)...think...if you asked him, I'm sure he'd hate me for it (ha ha).



BUT
SOHMA-KUN
DOESN'T
SEEM TO BE
ENJOYING IT.

110
4.

He's sitting
in a chair.

AND...



HE'S
PROBABLY
JUST
HUMILIATED
TO BE
DRESSED
LIKE A GIRL.

AW,
LEAVE
HIM
ALONE.

I WONDER...
IF I UPSET HIM
SOMEHOW...



...HE'S
AVOIDING
ME.

Even
at
the
house...

...FOR
SOME
REASON,
I FEEL
LIKE...



SOHMA-KUN
IS THE ONE
BRINGING
IN ALL OUR
CUSTOMERS...

YEAH...

...TOO
CUTE!

WELL,
YEAH,
BUT
HE'S...

CAN'T YOU
TELL
YUKI-KUN
DOESN'T
LIKE IT?



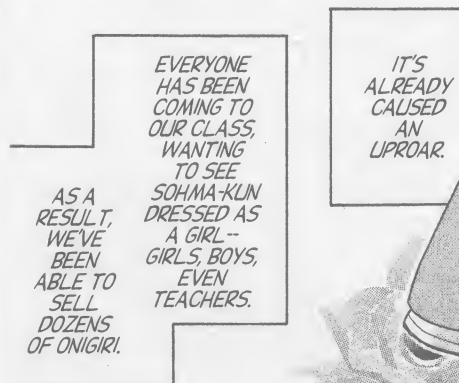
...IS WEARING
GIRL'S
CLOTHES
TODAY.

Do it for us,
in memory of
the three years
we've spent
together
at high school!

THAT'S
RIGHT.

SOHMA-KUN
UNABLE TO
REFUSE A
REQUEST OF
THE THIRD-
YEAR
STUDENTS...

Please please please!

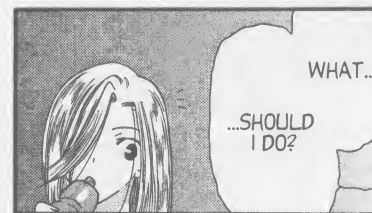


AS A
RESULT,
WE'VE
BEEN
ABLE TO
SELL
DOZENS
OF ONIGIRI.

EVERYONE
HAS BEEN
COMING TO
OUR CLASS,
WANTING
TO SEE
SOHMA-KUN
DRESSED AS
A GIRL--
GIRLS, BOYS,
EVEN
TEACHERS.

IT'S
ALREADY
CAUSED
AN
UPROAR.







HA...

SO HANDSOME!

HE'S SO CUTE!

A FRIEND OF YOURS, YUKI-KUN?



...YEAH.

IS THIS TRUE, KYO-KUN?!

SO CUTE!

WE'RE RELATIVES OF YUKI AND KYO!

Guten tag!

I'M MOMIJI SOHMA. I'M HALF GERMAN, HALF JAPANESE!

AND THIS IS HATORI SOHMA.



DON'T WANDER AROUND BY YOURSELF.

Ja!

EH?!

YOU KNOW HIM, KYO-KUN?

MOMIJI.



WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?

!?



YOU LOOK WELL, YUKI.

KYO.

HEY.



HE'S MY DOCTOR...

NOW, TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

These clothes. How do you take them off?



! YOU'RE TOHRU HONDA-KUN?



YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXAMINE ME HERE...

I'm both relieved and disappointed! Oooooohhh.

WELL, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO IF YOU'D JUST COME TO YOUR MONTHLY CHECK-UP LIKE YOU PROMISED.



YUKI HAS WEAK BRONCHIAL TUBES.

WHEN HE WAS LITTLE, HE'D HAVE ATTACKS ALL THE TIME.

EH... OH, NO.

SOHMA-KUN...! ARE YOU SICK?

AH...YES. NICE TO MEET YOU.



THAT BEING SAID, YUKI...

BUT DOES THAT MEAN...

...THESE TWO ARE ALSO IN THE CHINESE ZODIAC?



...WHEN DID YOU BECOME A WOMAN?

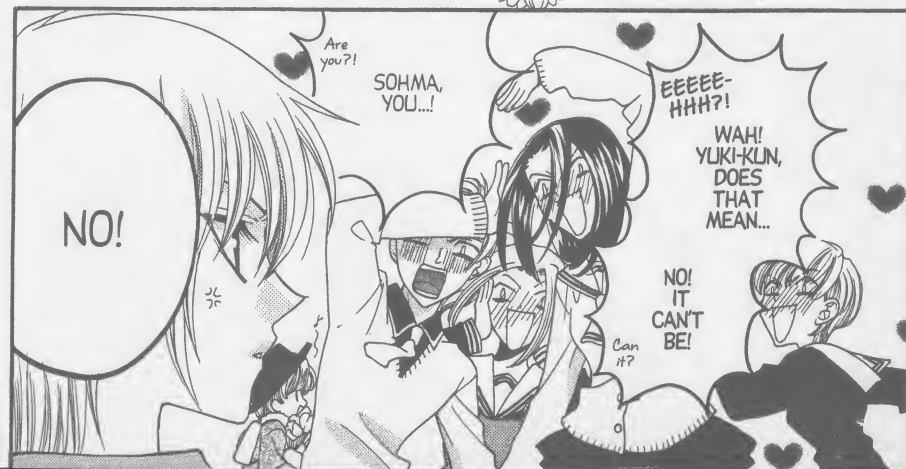
HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT AFTER YOU'VE SEEN ME NAKED SO MANY TIMES...



THIS IS SUCH A COINCIDENCE!

I MET A SOHMA WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT!

IT'S NO WONDER THAT MOMJI-SAN WAS ALSO SURPRISED!



NO!

SOHMA, YOU...!

EEEE-HHH?!

WAH! YUKI-KUN, DOES THAT MEAN...

NO! IT CAN'T BE!



YOU'RE NOT DOING A VERY GOOD JOB.

...AS MOMIJI'S CHAPERONE.

Just get over here, moron!

Argh! What's going on?!

WHEN AKITO SAW IT, HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO COME, TOO.

WHA?!

I WOULD RATHER HAVE COME SOME EVENING WHEN THERE WEREN'T SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND.

BUT I HAD TO COME IN HIS PLACE...

HE HAD A FEVER OF 102, THOUGH, SO AS HIS DOCTOR I PUT A STOP TO IT.



HOWEVER, I WILL SAY THIS--

DON'T WORRY.

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO DO ANYTHING TO TOHRU HONDA.

AKITO IS THE ONE WHO MAKES THAT DECISION.



HEY!

HATORI ...

...I SEE.

?

DON'T CLIMB ON THE BOOTH!

Was?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT?!

YOU REALLY ARE A "NORMAL" GIRL.

IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH IT, TELL MOMIJI. HE'S THE ONE WHO BROUGHT ME THE FLYER.

I told you!
I said don't move! Argh.

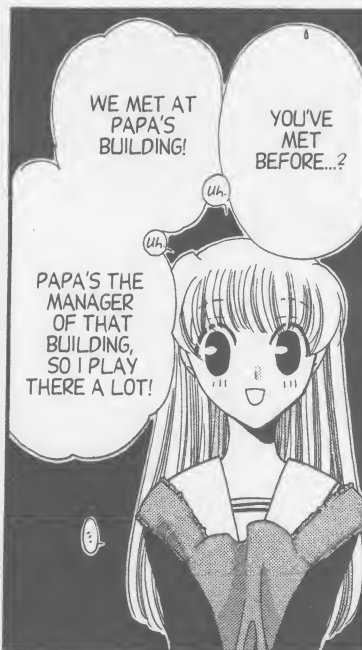
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

Don't walk on it!

MOMIJI ...

I-I'LL BE RIGHT BACK...!

OH NO!









AKITO TOLD
ME TO TAKE
A PICTURE OF
YOU TWO.





ON YOU,
HONDA-SAN
...

YOU'RE CUTE.

...I'M
SURE...

...IT WOULD
BE VERY
PRETTY.

I KNOW IT
PROBABLY
SOUNDS LIKE I'M
JUST TRYING TO
RATIONALIZE
IT...
...AND I
KNOW
I'M NOT
REALLY
MAKING
SENSE...

...HEAR HER
SAY THAT
AGAIN.

SO EVERYONE
IS SAYING THAT
THEY LIKE YOU,
SOHMA-KUN...

Um, uh,
you see?

THIS DRESS
IS SO
COMPLICATED!
IT'S AS HARD
TO TAKE OFF
AS IT IS
TO PUT ON.

...COULD
YOU
HELP ME
OUT
WITH
THIS?

NO...

...IT'S
STRANGE. I
DON'T MIND
SO MUCH
WHEN YOU
SAY IT,
HONDA-SAN.

I THINK IT
WOULD
LOOK GOOD
ON YOU,
HONDA-SAN.

My hair is
caught
on a button.

NO,
I COULDN'T.
BUT IT'S
BEAUTIFUL.
IT'S LIKE A
PRINCESS
DRESS.

Ah
ha
ha!

WELL, MAYBE
I'LL KEEP UP
THE FAN SERVICE
A LITTLE LONGER.
FOR THE SAKE OF
THE ONIGIRI
SALES...

BUT
BEFORE
THAT...



WELL ...

HATORI
HIMSELF
ISN'T
ALL BAD.

I KNOW THIS
MIGHT SOUND
ODD, BUT ...
IT'S ABOUT
HATORI.

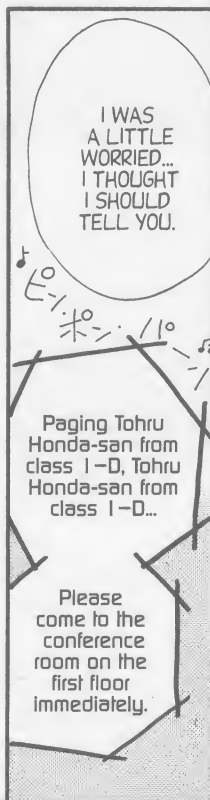
IF YOU EVER
MEET HIM AGAIN,
TRY NOT TO BE
LEFT ALONE
WITH HIM.

Y-YES?!

EH?!
HOW
COME?

OH YEAH.
HONDA-SAN.

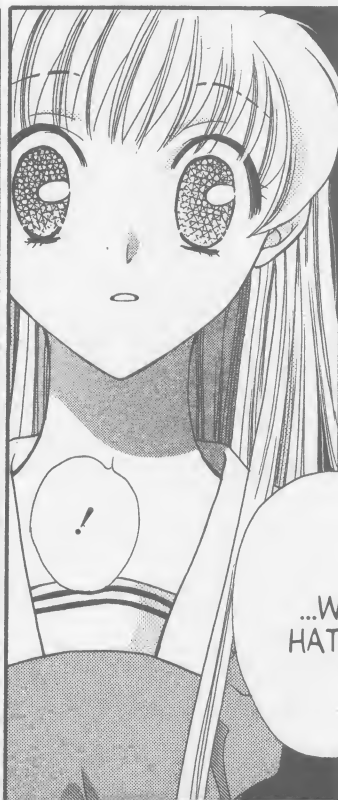
Ah...



I WAS
A LITTLE
WORRIED...
I THOUGHT
I SHOULD
TELL YOU.

Paging Tohru
Honda-san from
class 1-D, Tohru
Honda-san from
class 1-D...

Please
come to the
conference
room on the
first floor
immediately.



...WAS
HATORI.

THE ONE WHO
SUPPRESSED
ALL OF THEIR
MEMORIES...

BUT
REMEMBER
THE
INCIDENT
I TOLD YOU
ABOUT, WHEN
MY SECRET
WAS
DISCOVERED?



...SOHMA-
KUN IS...

...A REAL
"PRINCE
CHARMING."



THAT'S
RIGHT.



MORE THAN
BEING
"CUTE," OR
"PRETTY"...



Did you
get the
camera
back?

Shut up!
No!



THANK
YOU.



UH...

SHOULD WE
GO BACK TO
THE CLASS-
ROOM?



Oh no!

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING ON,
BUT I CAN'T
BELIEVE
SOHMA-KUN
THINKS
I'M CUTE!

I-I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO SAY!
I DON'T KNOW
WHETHER TO
FEEL SHOCKED,
MOVED,
FLATTERED
OR UPSET!

WZ--

B-BUT
IT MIGHT
BE SOME-
THING
REALLY
IMPORTANT.

WHAT
SHOULD I DO?
IF I SAY NO,
WILL HE
SUPPRESS
MY MEMORIES
ANYWAY?

THAT'S RIGHT.
MOM SAID
I SHOULDN'T
BE TOO
MISTRUSTING!

...0

≠

OKAY!

EXCELLENT.

EH?! EVEN GET TO MEET AKITO, AS WELL.

THE
ONE WHO
SUP-
PRESSED
ALL THEIR
MEMORIES
WAS
HATORI,
SUPPRESSED
SUPPRESSED
SUPPRESSE
SUPPRESS
JPPRESS
SUPPRE
SUPPR
THEIR
MEMORIES
UPPRE
SUPPRESSED
THEIR
RE-MEMORIES
UPPRE
THEIR
EMOR
THEIR
MEMORIES
SUPPRES
THEIR
MEMORIE
SUPPR
THE

I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU AT LENGTH...

...ABOUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

PLEASE DON'T MENTION IT TO YUKI OR KYO.

I THINK YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

...ABOUT
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT.

I repeat, I repeat, Hyoudo-san from class 1-B...

I NEVER THOUGHT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN I'D ACTUALLY MEET SOMEONE WHO COULD DO SUCH A THING.

HELLO.

UM, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

Kay.

"THE ONE WHO SUPPRESSED ALL THEIR MEMORIES"...

I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU HERE LIKE THIS.

KYO SEEMED TO HAVE HIS HANDS FULL, BUT WITH YUKI THERE, I DIDN'T THINK I'D GET A CHANCE TO SPEAK TO YOU IN PRIVATE.

EH?!

HERE'S MY ADDRESS.

COME VISIT ME ON YOUR NEXT DAY OFF.

RIGHT AFTER I WAS WARNED, HERE I AM, ALONE WITH HIM!

A HELLO.

'Kay

EH?

EH?!
ME?!

"THE ONE WHO
SUPPRESSED
ALL THEIR
MEMORIES"...

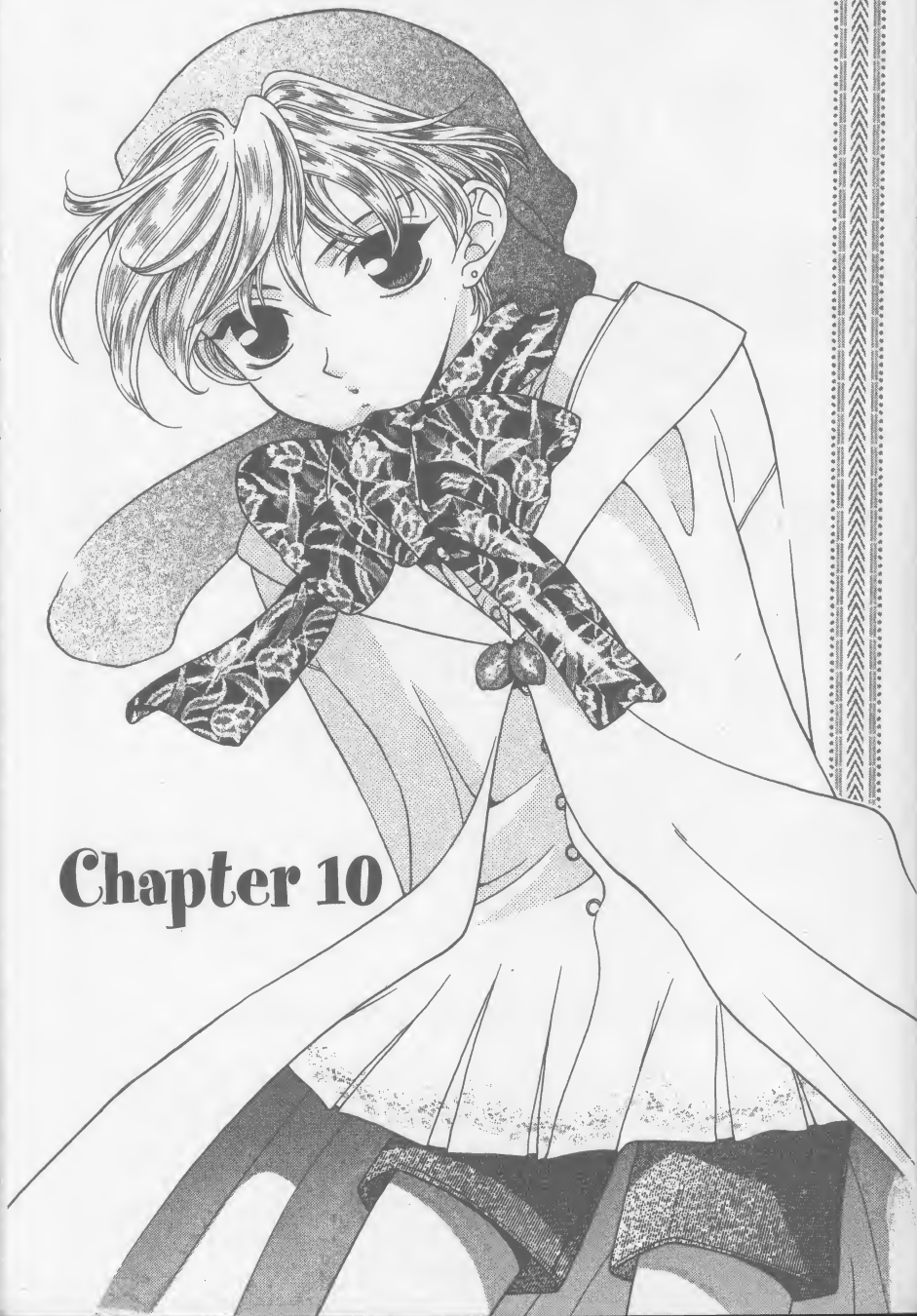
KYO SEEMED
TO HAVE HIS
HANDS FULL,
BUT WITH YUKI
THERE, I DIDN'T
THINK I'D GET A
CHANCE TO
SPEAK TO YOU
IN PRIVATE.

HERE'S MY ADDRESS.

COME
VISIT ME
ON YOUR
NEXT DAY
OFF.

RIGHT AFTER
I WAS WARNED,
HERE I AM,
ALONE
WITH HIM!

Chapter 10



*Sohma

草
摩

WOW...



WHERE IS THE FLOWER OF OUR HUMBLE HOME?

WHAT WAS THAT?

SHUT UP!
IT'S HER
FAULT FOR
NOT GOING
OUT MORE
OFTEN.

WHAT
ARE YOU,
STUPID?

IT'S SO
GRAND...



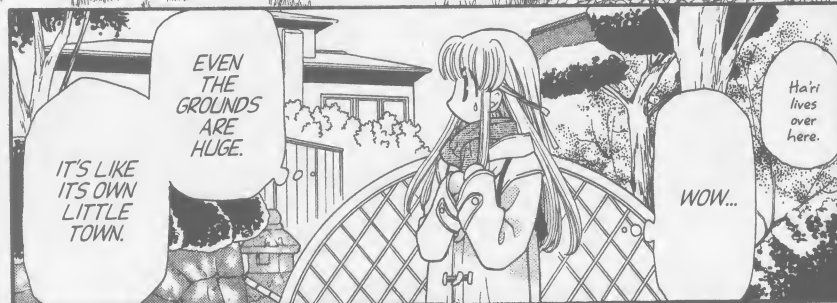
ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 4

Hatori stands out so much that I originally thought he would be on the cover of volume 2....his personality makes him easy to draw. I feel like he and Shigure are popular as a set. I wonder how Hatori feels about that (laugh).



...TO THE
SOHMA
ESTATE!

WELCOME
...



EVEN
THE
GROUNDS
ARE
HUGE.

IT'S LIKE
ITS OWN
LITTLE
TOWN.

Hari
lives
over
here.

WOW...



...IT CERTAINLY
ISN'T EASY ON
MY NERVES!

Hari's
house is
separate
from the
main
house!

BUT THIS
ATMOSPHERE...

BUT IT'S
VERY
QUIET.

AS IF
NO ONE
LIVES
HERE...



AS HATORI-SAN
INSTRUCTED...

...I CAME
WITHOUT
TELLING
SOHMA-KUN
AND THE
OTHERS.

BUT TO
THINK
I MIGHT
MEET
AKITO-SAN,
THE HEAD
OF THE
FAMILY...

TH-THE
SOHMAS
REALLY
ARE AN
IMPORTANT
FAMILY.



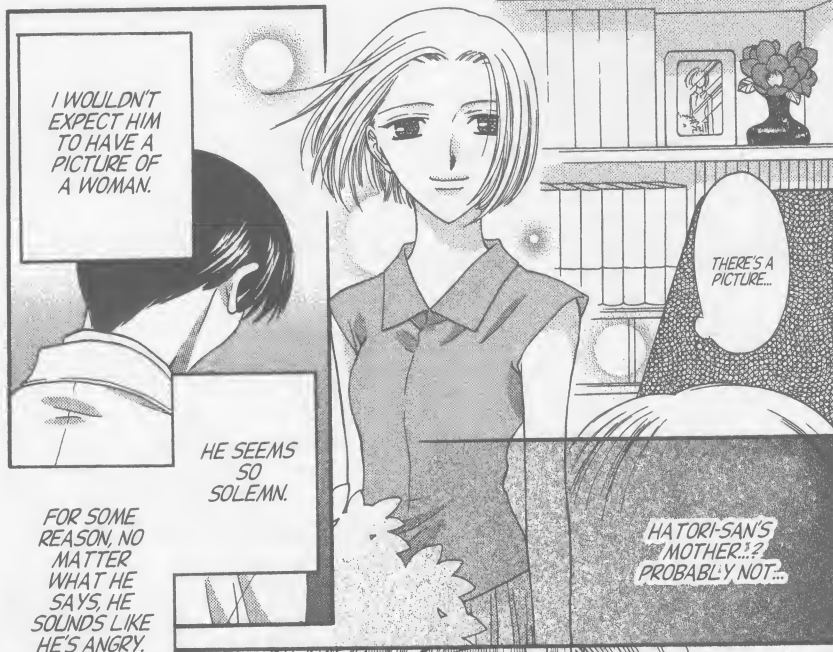
MO-MOMI-
LOO-LOOK OU-
L-LOOK O-

YOU'RE
RIGHT ON
TIME!

COME
ON IN!

TOHRU!

K
A
A
A
H
!







DO NOT INVOLVE YOURSELF WITH THE SOHMA FAMILY ANY MORE.

I THINK IT BEST...

...YOU LEAVE THAT PLACE.



...CURSED.



IT'S BIZARRE...

SINISTER...



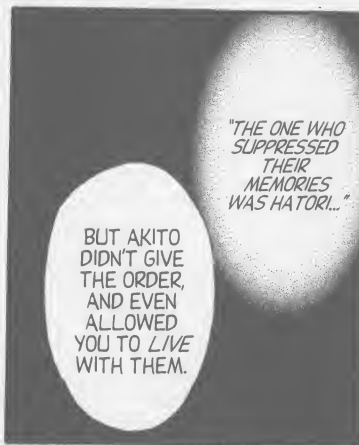
OH...

THE SOHMA FAMILY CONTINUES TO BE POSSESSED BY VENGEFUL SPIRITS. IT'S NOT THE FUN AND GAMES YOU MIGHT THINK.

I'M SURE SHIGURE DIDN'T MAKE CLEAR THE GRAVITY OF OUR CONDITION.



NORMALLY, I WOULD HAVE SUPPRESSED YOUR MEMORIES IMMEDIATELY.



"THE ONE WHO SUPPRESSED THEIR MEMORIES WAS HATORI..."

BUT AKITO DIDN'T GIVE THE ORDER, AND EVEN ALLOWED YOU TO LIVE WITH THEM.



...THAT MEANS THERE ARE VERY FEW PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT THE SECRET, EVEN INSIDE THE FAMILY.

TURNING IT AROUND...

IT'S UNTHINKABLE THAT A COMPLETE STRANGER LIKE YOU SHOULD KNOW SUCH A SECRET.



DO YOU ENJOY LIVING AT SHIGURE'S HOUSE?

YES! VERY MUCH!

C...CONCLUSION?

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT...

...AND I'VE COME TO A CONCLUSION.

Fruits Basket 2 Part 4:

I got the feeling that the last bosses in FF were getting weak.... Was it my imagination? I don't mind if they're weak! (Because then it's easier.) "End of Heart" gives me chills. While I was playing FF, I was playing Angelique. I like Sei-lan. And I like Oscar. Whenever Rachel starts dating one of them (especially Sei-lan) I reset the game. Even when she starts going after the other boys, I reset (laugh)! You're all like that too, right? I even played the RPG. Arios (cry). I wanted the two of us to be happy together... (What happened to Sei-lan?) And now I'm in the middle of Suikoden 2. Actually, I played 1, and I didn't like it much, but 2 is fun! As expected, I like Jowy...The name of my group is The Natsuki and Jowy Army!



...HE'S ALMOST BLIND IN HIS LEFT EYE.

ABOUT HA'RI...

...BUT I...



カ
ラ
カ
ラ

...EH?



SHE WAS A VERY SWEET PERSON.

HA'RI USED TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.

HER NAME WAS KANA. SHE WAS HIS ASSISTANT.

EVEN WHEN SHE FOUND OUT HA'RI WAS POSSESSED BY A VENGEFUL SPIRIT, SHE LAUGHED AND SAID SHE DIDN'T CARE.



WAIT HERE.

ding
dong
ding
dong



I'LL JUST BE A MOMENT.

CURSED...?



I-I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND...

WHAT COULD BE SO TERRIBLE ABOUT THEIR SECRET? AND USING ME... FOR WHAT?

HE SAYS I SHOULD LEAVE...

This probably isn't about transforming...

... BUT...



AKITO IS TRYING TO USE YOU.

"CURSED"...

BEFORE YOU REGRET GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE SOHMA...

...GET OUT.



...been better if...

...HA'RI
ERASED
KANA'S
MEMORIES.

HE COULDN'T
WATCH HER
FALL APART.

...if we had never met.

HE
CRIED...

SO HE
ERASED THE
TIME WHEN
THEY LOVED
EACH OTHER.

IT
MUST
HAVE
BEEN
PAINFUL.

WHY...?

KANA
LEFT.

POOR
HA'RI...

...BUT...

...HE DIDN'T
BLAME
AKITO.

HE GOT REALLY
MAD AND WENT
INTO A RAGE.
HE WOULDN'T
ALLOW THEIR
MARRIAGE.

BUT...

...AKITO
GOT
MAD.

AND
HE HURT
HA'RI'S
EYE.

THEY
WERE
ENGAGED
TO BE
MARRIED.

SO HATORI-SAN IS ONE OF THE CHINESE ZODIAC!

...BLAME
AKITO.

BUT
HA'RI
DIDN'T...

...it would
have been...

EVENTUALLY,
SHE GOT
HEARTSICK.

It would...

INSTEAD,
KANA
BLAMED
HERSELF.

SHE KEPT
AGONIZING,
SAYING IT
WAS HER
FAULT
HA'RI'S EYE
GOT HURT.

So...

EVEN
THOUGH HE
MIGHT BE
THE ONE...

...WHO NEEDS
KINDNESS
MOST, RIGHT
NOW.



I'M CRYING
BECAUSE...

...HE WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT ME.

I'M
GLAD...



HUH?

EH?!
ARE YOU
CRYING?!

WHY?!



SORRY...
I'M SORRY.

DID...
DID I
MAKE
TOHRU
CRY...?

NO...
THAT'S
NOT IT.



HATORI-SAN
IS...

...TOO KIND
A PERSON...



BECAUSE
THAT...

...I DON'T KNOW
WHAT AKITO
IS THINKING...

...BUT I
UNDERSTAND
A LITTLE OF
HOW HARI
FEELS.

THAT'S
WHY...

...IS
PART
OF THE
CURSE.

HARI DOESN'T
WANT TO
SEND TOHRU
AWAY LIKE
KANA.

HE
DOESN'T
WANT...

...TOHRU
TO BE
HURT
LIKE
KANA
WAS.



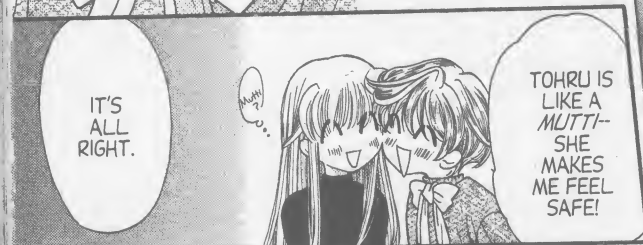
ARE YOU
HAPPY
YOU MET
ME?

WHAT
ABOUT
ME...?

OF
COURSE!

I'M THE WAY
I AM NOW...

...BECAUSE OF
SOHMA-KUN
AND THE OTHERS.



IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.

TOHRU IS
LIKE A
MUTTI-
SHE
MAKES
ME FEEL
SAFE!



AND
WE'RE
NOT
USING
YOU.

...INTENDING
TO HURT YOU,
TOHRU-KUN.

WE DIDN'T
GET YOU
INVOLVED
WITH OUR
MESS...



...I WANT TO SAY
THANK YOU.

I WILL
NEVER
REGRET...

...THAT I GOT
INVOLVED.

I NEVER
COULD.

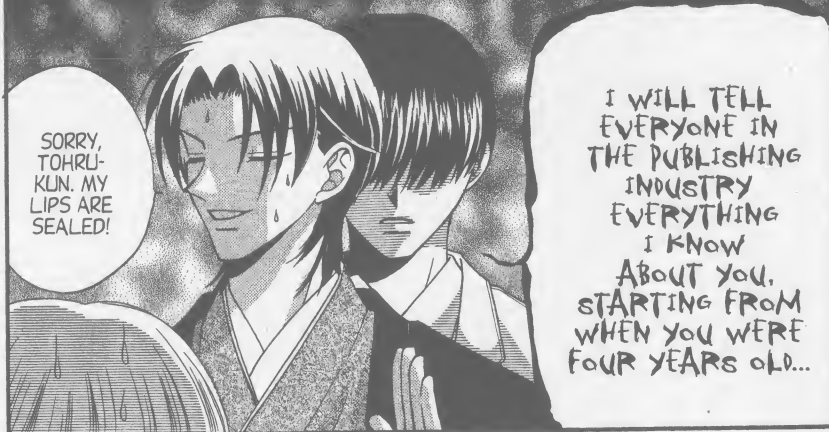
...I GOT
TO MEET
EVERYONE.

...I'M
JUST SO
GLAD...

EVEN IF
I AM BEING
USED
FOR SOME
PURPOSE...

...GIVING ME
THE LIFE I
HAVE NOW...





THAT IS
PART OF THE
CURSE.

"Akito is
trying to
use you."

DOES
HE
LIKE
HIM?

"Akito-san's
word is law."

"I can't go
against
Akito's
decision."

IS HE
AFRAID
OF HIM?

THAT IS:

HE
SEEMS
LIKE A
VERY
KIND
PERSON.

I...

...CHANGED
THE
SUBJECT
FROM
AKITO-SAN...

"He's
almost
blind
in his
left eye."

"He
hurt
Hatori's
eye."

...EVEN
THOUGH
HATORI-SAN
SEEMED
FINE WHEN
HE SAID HIS
NAME.



YES...

CALLING YOU
OUT HERE
LIKE THAT
AND CAUSING
TROUBLE...

...BUT
HE'S NOT
A BAD GUY,
REALLY.

THAT
HATORI.

TOHRU-
KUN!

IF WE GET
SEPARATED,
YOU'LL
GET LOST.

JUST
NOW...

JUST
NOW,
COULD
THAT...

TOHRU-
KUN?

A...

WHAT IS...

...THE
"CURSE"?

SHIGURE...
SAN?

COULD
THAT
HAVE
BEEN...



Whether they get along or not. These two certainly don't.

A KOTATSU CAN EVEN PUT LITTLE DEVILS TO SLEEP.

...I MEET HIM?

...IT'S TRUE.

Shigure is rubbing off.

WHATEVER WILL BE, WILL BE. WHATEVER WON'T, WON'T. THAT'S LIFE.

Like que será, será.

WORRYING ABOUT IT WON'T HELP.

EITHER WAY...

Hey you two, wake up. Don't you want dinner?

THAT'S RIGHT.

NO MATTER WHAT...

I FEEL LIKE I'VE LEARNED A LOT...

...AND YET, I HAVEN'T LEARNED A THING.

I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING ABOUT TODAY.

AS FOR THE REST... I THINK IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL YOU.

I'M SORRY.

WILL THE DAY EVER COME WHEN I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ABOUT THE SOHMA'S GOOD AND BAD?

THE SOHMA FAMILY.

THE DAY WHEN...

DO I HAVE TO DO ANYTHING?

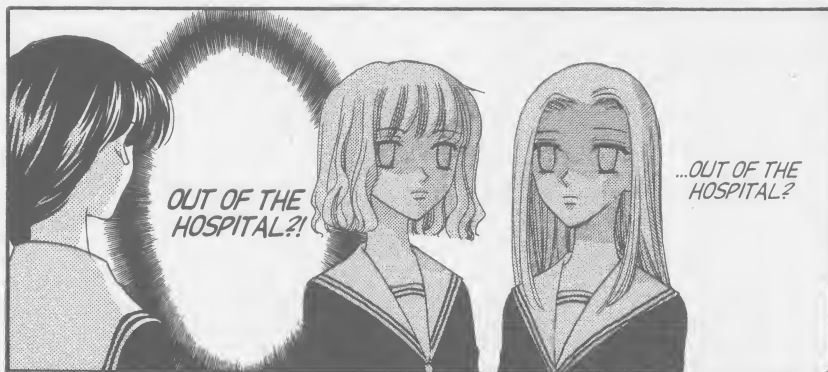
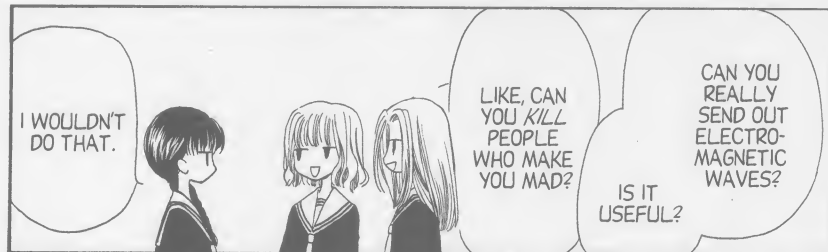
DO I...



YOU...

...JUST NEED TO BE YOU.

Omake Theater: This has nothing to do with the manga, but right now I have a fever of 100.4F...





Chapter II

SHE'S BEEN THROUGH MORE HARDSHIPS THAN MOST HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS...

SHE DOESN'T THINK LIKE MOST PEOPLE.

THE GIRL CALLED TOHRU HONDA...

SHE READILY ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT WE TURN INTO ANIMALS.

...AND YET SHE'S ALWAYS SMILING.

ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 5

In reality, the costume for the dance of the Chinese Zodiac is different every year. But here I have Momiji and Yuki wearing the same costume because I thought that if they had different costumes, it would be hard to understand. And on a completely different note, my older sister really liked Hana's line, "May you have good waves next year too..." (laugh). By the way, she seems to really like Kyo. She's a cat-lover.

My thanks to...

Yup.

Harada-sama, Araki-sama, my mother, my editor, and everyone who supports me and reads my work.

Next time it'll be Kyo.

This has been Natsuki Takaya.



YOU'RE TOO OLD TO BE TATTLING!

THEY SAY THEY WON'T GO BACK TO THE SOHMA ESTATE FOR NEW YEAR'S!

LISTEN, TOHRU-KUUUN...

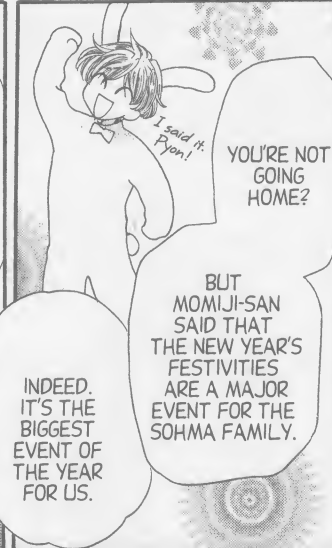
It's pathetic!

YOU SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ARGUING FOR A WHILE...



AND THE MOST IMPORTANT PART IS THE JUUNISHI BANQUET.

THE WHOLE FAMILY COMES HOME AND CELEBRATES.



I said it, Ryon!

YOU'RE NOT GOING HOME?

BUT MOMIJI-SAN SAID THAT THE NEW YEAR'S FESTIVITIES ARE A MAJOR EVENT FOR THE SOHMA FAMILY.

INDEED. IT'S THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR FOR US.



WE'RE NOT GOING BACK!

IT'S BEEN FOUR MONTHS SINCE SHE STARTED LIVING WITH US. BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING I HAVEN'T GRASPED.



IF I WENT HOME TO ATTEND A BANQUET, THERE'D BE NO POINT IN HAVING LEFT.



YOU THINK SOMEONE WHO LEFT HOME FOUR MONTHS AGO WOULD GO BACK JUST BECAUSE IT'S NEW YEAR'S?!



WHAT'S WRONG?

DEAR, OH DEAR...

WE'RE NOT GOING BACK!



BUT...



Ehh?!
WHY...?

I GUESS
THAT'S JUST
LIKE THE
LEGEND
TOO.

IT WAS
DECIDED
LONG AGO
THAT THE
CAT
COULDN'T
COME.



**SHUT
UP!**

IT'S BECAUSE
IF HE WENT
BACK, KAGURA
WOULD BE SO
MOVED THAT
SHE'D KILL HIM.

NEVER
MIND
THAT.



LOOK,
IT'S NO
BIG DEAL
SO YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO GO AND
MAKE THAT
FACE.

I'M NOT SAYING
I WON'T GO
HOME JUST
BECAUSE OF
SOME STUPID
BANQUET.



DON'T
TELL HER
ABOUT
THAT!

Wow!
I WOULD
LOVE TO
HAVE SEEN
THAT!

THE BANQUET
CAN ONLY BE
ATTENDED BY
THOSE
POSSESSED
BY THE
SPIRITS OF
THE CHINESE
ZODIAC.

THE ZODIAC
MEMBERS
REPRESENT-
ING THE
NEW YEAR
AND THE
OLD YEAR
DANCE
TOGETHER.

THIS YEAR
IT WILL BE
MOMIJI-KUN
AND THE
TIGER.

IT MUST BE
WONDERFUL.

A BANQUET.
JUST LIKE
THE
LEGEND!

HMPH.
IT'S GOT
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH ME.

THE CAT
CAN'T GO
TO THE
BANQUET.

Ooohh!
YUKI'S DANCE
THREE YEARS
AGO WAS
BEAUTIFUL!



THANK YOU
FOR THINKING
OF ME.

SOMEHOW,
THAT...

...WITH
JOY!

BUT I'D FEEL
TERRIBLE IF
YOU MISSED
OUT ON SUCH
A WONDERFUL
CELEBRATION
ON MY
ACCOUNT.

AND IT'S BEEN A
WHILE SINCE
YOU'VE SEEN
YOUR PARENTS,
RIGHT?

...FILLS
MY HEART...

I'M SURE
THEY'RE
ANXIOUS
FOR YOU TO
COME HOME.

PLEASE, GO
ENJOY THE
NEW YEAR
WITH YOUR
FAMILY. YOU
CAN LEAVE
THE HOUSE TO
ME WHILE
YOU'RE AWAY!

I'LL
MAKE
SURE TO
TAKE...

...
GOOD
CARE
OF--



HUH? YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO YOUR
GRANDPA'S
HOUSE?



DURING
THAT TIME,
HONDA-SAN
WOULD BE
LEFT ALL
ALONE.

IF WE GO
BACK TO THE
SOHMAS,
WE'LL HAVE
TO SPEND
THE THREE
DAYS OF
SANGA-NICHI*
THERE,
RIGHT?

* The first three days of January



THAT'S
WHAT
I JUST
SAID!

WHAT?
YOU'RE
GOING TO
BE ALONE
FOR NEW
YEAR'S?



Ha ha!

OH,
YOU
TWO.

THAT'S
BECAUSE
YOU DON'T
LISTEN.

SHUT UP!
THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME
I HEARD
ABOUT IT!



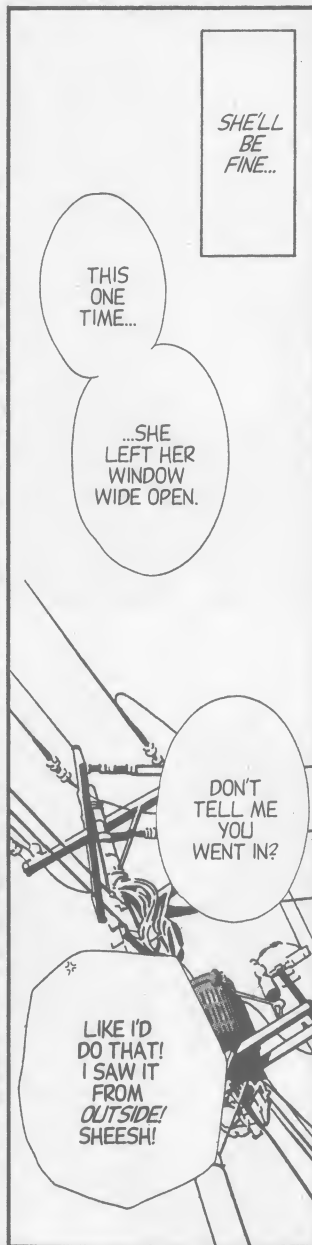
TOHRU-KUN'S
GRANDFATHER
AND THE REST
OF THEM ARE
GOING TO
HAWAII.

SO SHE
ASKED ME
TO LET HER
STAY HERE
FOR NEW
YEAR'S.

Fruits Basket 2 Part 5:

The "Those with Wings" (Takaya-sensei's last manga series before Furuba) CD was released on June 5th. Did you buy it? Did you listen to it? It's a comedy and it's really funny, so I'd really like you to hear it. They got an amazing cast who all did a great job (of course) and I ended up laughing at my own jokes (laugh). When I went to the recording session, I was so nervous I was shaking. I was like, "Wow, the big time!" (laugh). I'm such a fan of Midorikawa-san that my friends often tell me, "We know already; you don't have to say it again," and when a certain anime was on and it turned out that he played the new character, my friend called and said, "You must be really happy. Takaya," and as soon as I got off the phone, I sent out a FAX that said that I really was very happy, but now I'm really, really happy! When I met him I shouted, "I love you! I adore you! I'm a huge fan!" (laugh)







WAH!

...
Someone
will
crash
into
you.



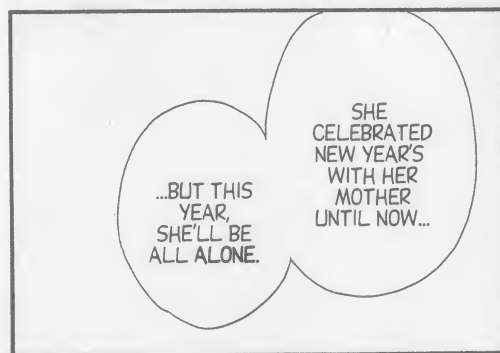
MY, THIS IS A
COINCIDENCE.
WE WERE
JUST ON OUR
WAY TO OUR
FAMILY'S
ESTATE.

What's
with the
cape?

Why
can't she
appear
like a
normal
person?!

W...
WELL,
IF IT
ISN'T
SAKI-
CHAN.

Fell over
from shock.



...BUT THIS
YEAR,
SHE'LL BE
ALL ALONE.

SHE
CELEBRATED
NEW YEAR'S
WITH HER
MOTHER
UNTIL NOW...



TOHRU-
KUN
TOLD
ME.

YES.

SO SHE
REALLY
IS ALONE
THIS YEAR.



THEY
SAY THE
ROBBER IS
STILL AT
LARGE.

...THERE WAS
A REPORT IN
THE MORNING
NEWS ABOUT
A BURGLARY
IN OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD.



I KNOW YOU'RE
WORRIED ABOUT
TOHRU-KUN,
BUT YOU
DECIDED TO
COME WITH
ME, SO--

I'M NOT
WORRIED!

THIS
WORRYING
IS STUPID.

LET'S
GO.

COME TO
THINK OF
IT...

Ah!



IF YOU
KEEP
STANDING
THERE
IN A DAZE...

NOW,
NOW,
YOU
TWO...



Damn!

SHE'S JUST
NAÏVE
ENOUGH TO
INVITE A
BURGLAR
INSIDE!

SHE'D
PROBABLY
SERVE HIM TEA
AND ASK HIM
QUESTIONS
ABOUT
HIMSELF!

Look what they're saying about you, Tohru.

...REALLY
OKAY WITH
THAT?

IS
SHE...

...GOING TO
BE ALL
RIGHT?

BACK THEN...

...HOW DID
SHE FEEL...



WAS
TOHRU-KUN
...

...WHEN SHE
WATCHED
US LEAVE?

...THE GOING
YEAR,
THE COMING
YEAR...

WHEN SHE
SEES THE
LIGHTS
AND THE
DECORATIONS...

...SHE CAN'T
HELP BUT
REMEMBER
SEEING
THEM
WITH HER
MOTHER.

I WONDER
HOW
SHE'LL
FEEL?

BUT...

SHE JUST
SMILED AND
TOLD US TO
SPEND IT
WITH OUR
FAMILIES.

...WHAT WILL
BECOME
OF POOR
TOHRU-KUN?

...
AH!
...

ARISA AND
I BOTH
OFFERED...

...TO
SPEND IT
WITH HER...





WE'RE
GOING
HOME!



I saw it...

WHAT
ARE
YOU
TWO
DOING?

HOW DOES
SHE FEEL...

...RIGHT NOW...

...ALONE IN
THAT HOUSE?



I DON'T
CARE...

...WHAT
THEY DO.

I SIMPLY
WANTED
TO DO
SOMETHING
FOR
TOHRU-KUN...
THAT IS
ALL.



SAKI-
CHAN...

...DID YOU
PLAN
THAT?



Gimme
a break!

WHY DON'T
I WRAP HER
UP AND GIVE
HER TO YOU!

AND
I'LL
GIVE
YOU
AKITO.

I DON'T
WANT
'IM!

HEY,
YOU TWO,
WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

End of
explanation.



WHAT'S
WITH
YOU?!

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
IN A HURRY
TO SEE
YOUR
BELOVED
AKITO!

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?!
WOULDN'T
WANT TO
KEEP YOUR
DARLING
KAGURA
WAITING.

When
he tried
stand up,
Fyo
Sakima's
head.

...crashed into
Yuki Sakima's chest
(the lower part)
as Yuki tried
to go forward.



I WANT
TO GO
HOME.

WHY
DIDN'T
I REALIZE?

HOW COULD
I MISS THAT?

SO AT
PEACE,
ALL BY
HERSELF...

I WANT TO
GO HOME
RIGHT
NOW.

NO ONE'S
LIKE THAT.

IT'S BEEN
FOUR
MONTHS
SINCE WE
STARTED
LIVING
TOGETHER...

...BUT
THERE'S
STILL
SOMETHING
I HAVEN'T
GRASPED.

She's
good...

MAY
YOU
HAVE...

...GOOD
WAVES
NEXT
YEAR.

...BECAUSE
SHE'S
ALWAYS
SMILING SO
PLEASANT-
LY.

I LET IT
SLIP BY ME.

I NEVER
REALIZED...

...WHAT
I MOST
WANT
TO HEAR.

...AT
EVEN THE
SMALLEST
THINGS.

SHE
SMILES...

YES,
SHE'S
ALWAYS
SMILING.

AND
THEN
SHE
TELLS
ME...



Y-YOU
STARTLED
ME!

WHAT ON
EARTH...

EH...

...EEHH?!



THANK
GOODNESS.

...ALL
EMOTIONAL
ON NEW
YEAR'S.
UM...

IT
ISN'T
RIGHT...
ME
GETTING...

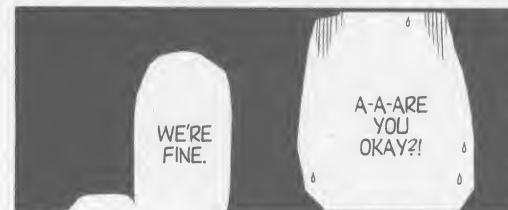
THAT
IS...
UM...
WHAT
SHOULD
I SAY?!

AH!
NO!
I'M
NOT!

I WAS,
UH, JUST
LISTENING TO
AN OLD FOLK
SONG, AND MY
HUMBLE
JAPANESE
HEART...



I
WANT
TO
SEE
HER.





WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, SENSEI?

I'LL TAKE CARE OF AKITO-SAN.

...AND AKITO, QUIETLY STEAMING...

...OH.

I CAN JUST IMAGINE KAGURA, RAGING LIKE FIRE...

EVEN I HAVE THINGS I CAN'T STAND.

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT TO HIM IN THE NEW YEAR.

MAN...AND HERE I WAS PLANNING TO CHALLENGE HIM TO ONE LAST FIGHT FOR THE YEAR.

Haa-kun, don't destroy my house...

BUT I DO UNDERSTAND WHY THEY'D WANT TO SKIP OUT...

AND SOMETIMES EVEN I WANT TO RUN AWAY...



WELCOME BACK, SHIGURE-SAN.

WELCOME BACK.

I'M HOME.

YOU'RE LATE.

YOU'RE THE LAST ONE HERE.

HEY, HAA-KUN, THANKS FOR COMING TO GREET ME.

...WHERE ARE KYO AND YUKI?

Long time no see.

THEY DITCHED.

WELL, TO BE BLUNT...

UMM, HOW SHALL I PUT THIS?



...YOU'RE PATHETIC...

...AKITO.

EH?

HANA-
CHAN?

THAT'S
RIGHT.

GOOD
EVENING.

YEAH.
WE MET HER
ON THE WAY
THERE.

FOR
NOW...



NO, NO,
THIS YEAR,
I DON'T
THINK...

...IT'S
BECAUSE
THEY'RE
TRYING
TO RUN
AWAY.

YOU
FINALLY
MADE IT!

?

THE
BANQUET
IS STARTING!

WHAT DO
YOU
MEAN?

SHII-CHAN!
HARUUU!

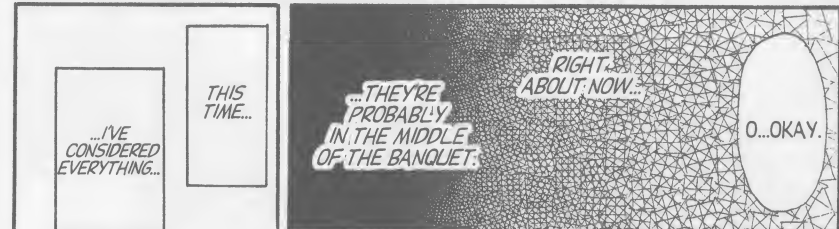
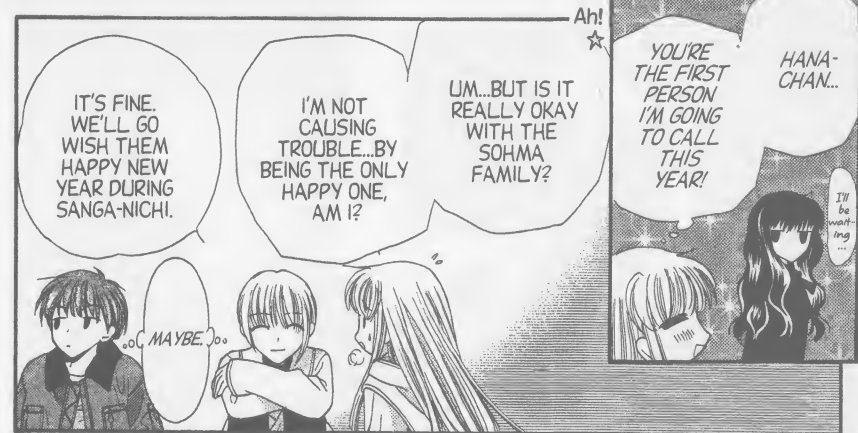
HEY,
MOMIJI!

I'M LOOKING
FORWARD TO
YOUR DANCE.

Ja!

...BUT
BEFORE
THAT--
AKITO.

I WONDER
HOW
HE'LL
TAKE THE
NEWS.





Chapter 12



AND I THINK
IT JUST
MIGHT BE...

...TO GREET
THE NEW YEAR
WITH HER.

Yeah,
yeah.
Keep
wishing.

This year
I'm going
to beat
that damn
rat!

Happy
New
Year!





...IN A WAY,
HE WAS
TELLING
THE TRUTH.

HATORI-
SAN!



TOHRI!...
HONDA!

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR.



Suddenly brought back to reality.
He's kind of out of it.

FOR A
SECOND,
I DIDN'T
KNOW WHO
YOU WERE.

You grew your hair
longer.

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR.

I WAS
WONDERING
WHAT I'D DO
IF YOU
WEREN'T!



...IT REALLY
IS YOU,
HATORI-SAN!

THANK
GOODNESS...



"HE'S
COLD
LIKE
SNOW."

THAT'S
WHY...

...I ERASED
HIS
FRIENDS'
MEMORIES.

"HATORI
IS LIKE
SNOW."

FOR A
LONG TIME,
IF AKITO
OR MY
FATHER ...

...WHEN
AKITO
LITTERED
THOSE
WORDS...

SO EVEN
THOUGH
I KNEW IT
WOULD
HURT
YUKI...

...ORDERED
ME TO DO
IT...I WOULD
SUPPRESS
ANYONE'S
MEMORIES.

ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 6

Starting in this chapter, Hatori's hair is longer...I'm sure Akito told him not to cut it...I don't think Hatori will meet Kana after this. Even if Hatori could meet her again, I don't think he'd want to.



YOU MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY BUSY.

NO...I JUST WANTED A LITTLE CITY AIR.

HATORI-SAN, ARE YOU GOING SHOPPING?

HOW-
EVER

FOR CHOOSING HER...

...OVER AKITO?

AH!

WHO COULD BLAME HIM...

"I'M SURE HE WANTED TO GREET THE NEW YEAR WITH TOHRU-KUN."



SOMEHOW...

IT'S SNOWING...

...IT'S STRANGE THAT I'M SEEING THE FIRST SNOW WITH YOU, HATORI-SAN.

TODAY'S GOING TO BE A COLD ONE.

I KNOW...



MAYBE...

...HE DOESN'T LIKE IT?

I DID THINK OF GETTING IT CUT.

...I'VE JUST BEEN BUSY WITH THE NEW YEAR.



JUST LIKE SHIGURE-SAN'S.

IT LOOKS REALLY GOOD.



WHAT...?



THEY MUST HAVE BEEN LYING.

No doubt they're now sitting under a kotatsu eating oranges or something...

HE CREATED QUITE A STIR...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE RAT'S SKIPPED OUT ON THE BANQUET.

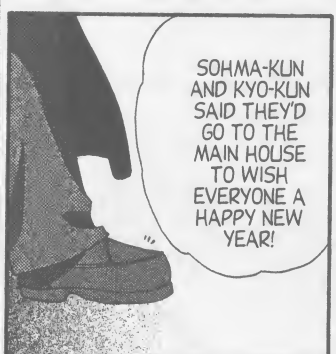
NEVER MIND KYO, YUKI'S SHOWING A LOT OF GUTS.



YES!

ARE YOU ALONE?

I WAS JUST WITH MY FRIENDS ON OUR FIRST TEMPLE VISIT OF THE NEW YEAR.



SOHMA-KUN AND KYO-KUN SAID THEY'D GO TO THE MAIN HOUSE TO WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Fruits Basket 2 Part 6:

I usually don't have a clear idea of characters' voices, and when I do, it's rare. I say that, but even from Chapter 1, I imagined Midorikawa-san's voice for Raimon in my head. I also imagined his voice for Tamaki in Gen'ei Muso...(laugh). I never thought I would hear it in real life...! <sob> (sparkle) As for Furuba...well, I think I've day-dreamed enough and need to tell myself to wake up. Sorry... (There aren't any plans to.) But, but! Kouda-san as Kotobuki is explosively adorable! (More than the original Kotobuki.) Midorikawa-san as Raimon is wow...! Ok, I need to calm down... And Shouka and Yu and Hare and Rokuro and Addy and Yan and Fear and Tooya and Hilt fit the images perfectly, so I'm really happy!! I really, really want people to hear it! I'll be even more happy if people tell me they liked it. Thank you to all the voice-over actors who took time out of their busy schedules to be on this CD!



...!
COULDN'T.

AH-!



PLEASUED TO
MEET YOU.
I'M KANA
SOHMA!

HERS...

KANA'S.



Ah!

AH! IT'S
SNOWING!
I KNEW IT
WAS
GOING TO
SNOW!

I KNOW
IT'S
SUDDEN,
BUT I HAVE
A JOB
FOR YOU...



MAY I ASK
YOU A
QUESTION?

WHEN SNOW
MELTS, WHAT
DOES IT
BECOME?!



YOU KNOW...
IT'S STRANGE.
WE'RE PART OF
THE SAME
FAMILY, YET
WE HAVEN'T
SPOKEN BEFORE
TODAY.

I WILL DO
MY BEST
TO ASSIST
YOU!

HATORI-SAN,
EVERYONE THINKS
YOU'RE SO HAND-
SOME, YOU'RE
POPULAR EVEN
"OUTSIDE."



WATER
RRRR!

S-SEA
WATER?!

OR
FRESH
WATER?!

Height: 8cm

WHICH
IS IT,
HATORI-
SAAAN?!

...YES.



IT COULDN'T
BE ANY FUNNIER
IF HE TURNED
INTO A REAL
DRAGON.

HOW COME
HAA-SAN IS
THE ONLY
WEIRD ONE?

MY FRIENDS
LAUGHED
AT ME
ABOUT IT...

THIS
BRINGS BACK
MEMORIES.
TOHRU HONDA'S
REACTION IS
THE SAME AS
HERS WAS.

YOU'RE
THE YEAR OF
THE DRAGON,
SO YOU MUST BE
THE DRAGON'S
BASTARD
OFFSPRING!



TO
ME...

...SHE
WAS
SPRING.

IT WAS
AS IF
WHILE
IMPRISONED
INSIDE
THE DARK
CAGE OF
THE INNER
FAMILY...

...I HAD
COMPLETELY
FROZEN INTO
SNOW...

...AND
THEN
THERE
SHE
WAS--
FRESH,
CLEAR
SPRING.

IT WAS
ALMOST
INEVITABLE
THAT...

...I WOULD
FALL IN
LOVE WITH
HER.



IS SHE
MAKING
FUN OF
ME?

IT BECOMES
WATER,
OF COURSE.

WRONG!

IT
BECOMES
SPRING!

SPRING IS
MY FAVORITE
SEASON!

I
REALIZED
THEN
WHAT
PEOPLE
THOSE
MEANT.

...BEING
WITH
ANOTHER
PERSON...

...CAN
MAKE YOU
FEEL SO
MUCH MORE
ALIVE.

THEY
SAY
THAT...



BUT...

...THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SCARED ANYMORE.

DON'T PUSH ME AWAY.

I'M...HAPPY I MET YOU, HATORI.



I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU WOULD NEVER HOLD ME.

IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW.



YOU DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW YOUR SECRET.

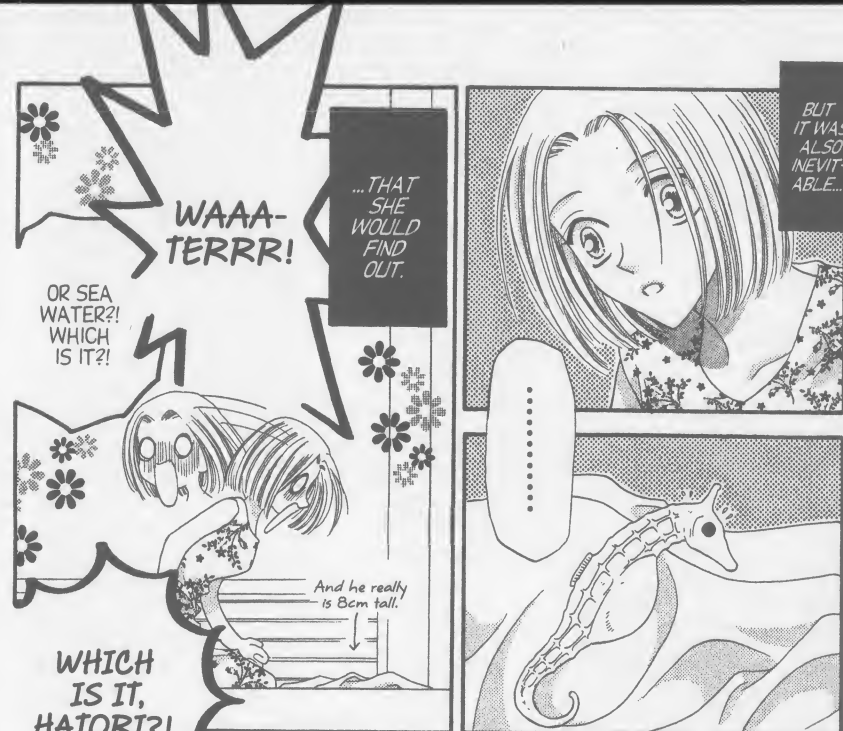
I UNDERSTAND. YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SCARED.



NATURALLY, YOU WOULD DISTANCE YOURSELF FROM OTHERS.

ESPECIALLY IF...

...IT WAS SOMEONE YOU LOVED.

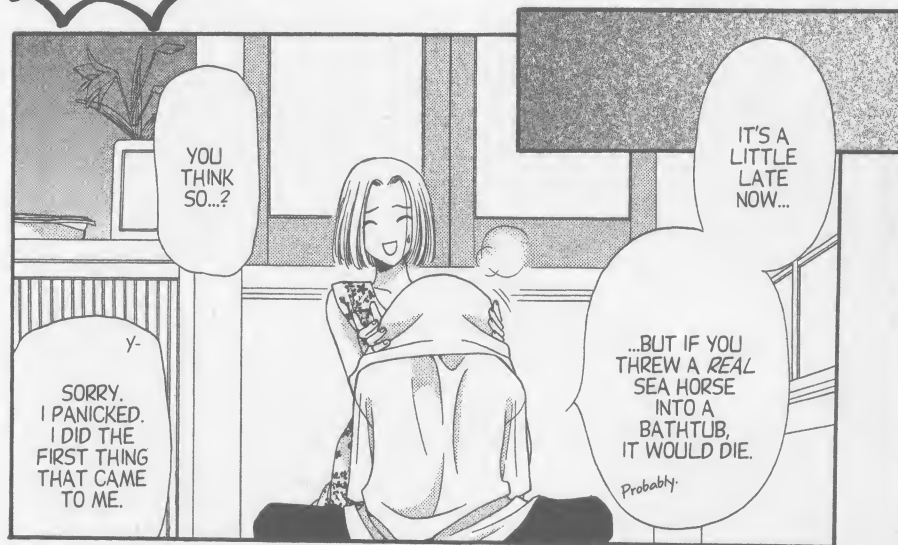


WAAA-TERRR!

OR SEA WATER?! WHICH IS IT?

...THAT SHE WOULD FIND OUT.

WHICH IS IT, HATORI?!



YOU THINK SO...?

IT'S A LITTLE LATE NOW...

SORRY. I PANICKED. I DID THE FIRST THING THAT CAME TO ME.

...BUT IF YOU THREW A REAL SEA HORSE INTO A BATHTUB, IT WOULD DIE.

Probably.

THE END OF THE DREAM...
...CAME WHEN I WENT TO ASK AKITO FOR HIS PERMISSION...

...TO MARRY HER.

NOW,
THAT
SMILE
PIERCES
MY
HEART.

AKITO!

HOLD ON A SECOND!
CALM DOWN...
STOP!

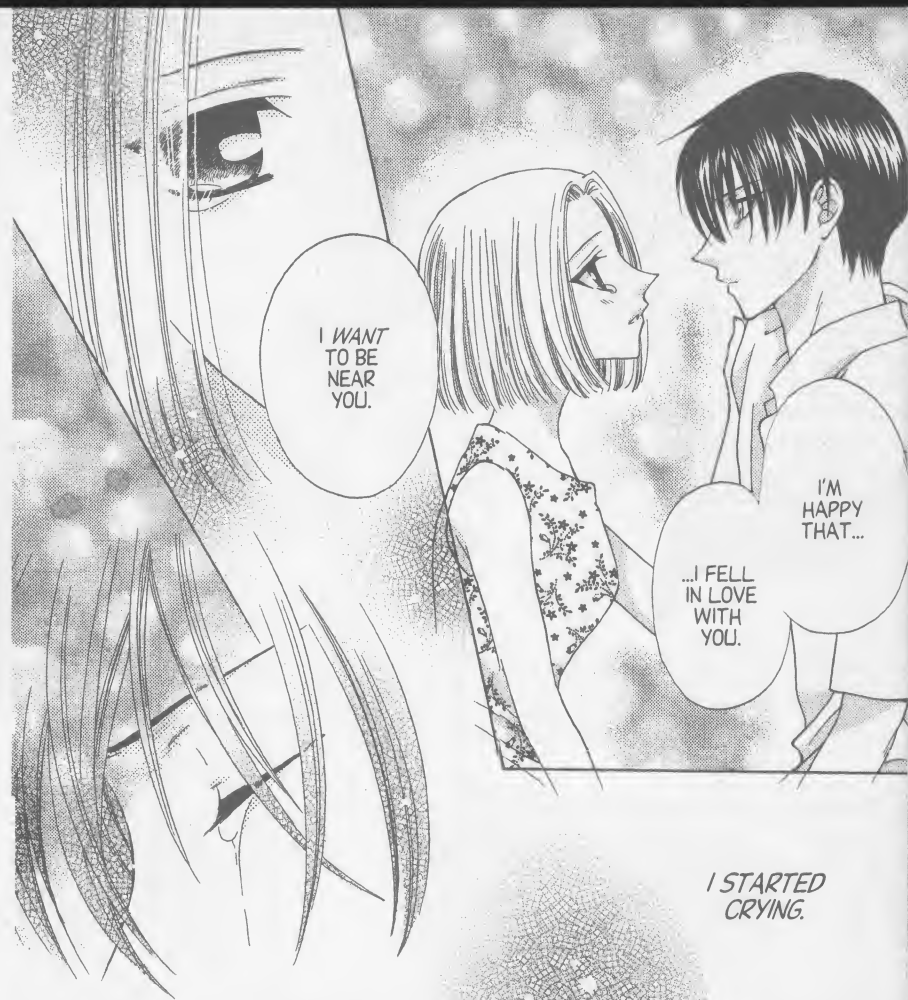
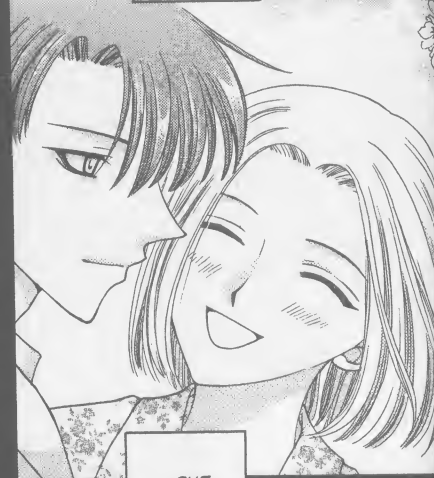


THE NEXT TWO MONTHS WERE LITERALLY...

...LIKE A DREAM.

"IT'S AS IF A LIFE-TIME OF HAPPINESS HAS BEEN CONDENSED INTO TWO SHORT MONTHS!"

...SHE SAID, SMILING.

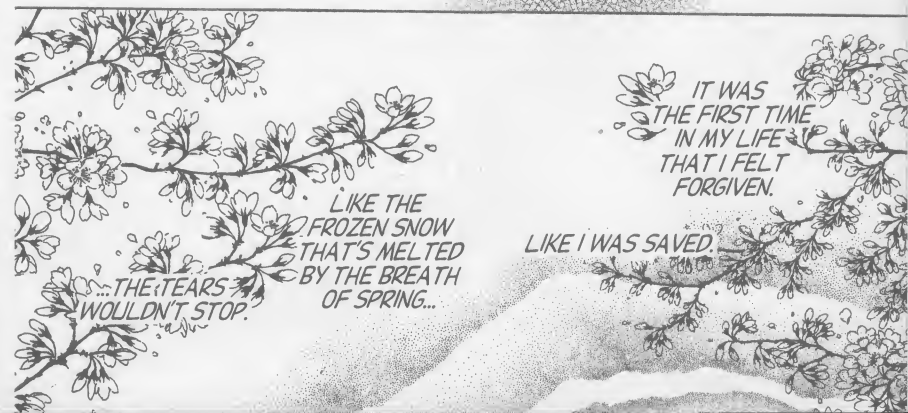


I WANT TO BE NEAR YOU.

I'M HAPPY THAT...

...I FELT IN LOVE WITH YOU.

I STARTED CRYING.



IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE THAT I FELT FORGIVEN.

LIKE I WAS SAVED.

LIKE THE FROZEN SNOW THAT'S MELTED BY THE BREATH OF SPRING...

...THE TEARS WOULDN'T STOP.

HER HEART FELL ILL

YOUR MEMORY
SUPPRESSION
SKILLS WOULD BE
HELPFUL NOW,
WOULDN'T THEY?

JUST
ERASE HER
MEMORIES.

YOU HAD NO
PROBLEM WITH
THE OTHERS.

NO MATTER
WHAT
I SAID
OR DID...

...SHE DID
NOTHING
BUT CRY.

I COULDN'T
EVEN
BLAME
AKITO.

IT WAS
THE CURSE.

AND SO
SHE FELL ILL

...SHE
FELL ILL.

WHY WOULD
I GIVE HIM
TO YOU?
I DON'T
NEED YOU!

YOU CAN'T
EVEN BREAK
THE CURSE!
I DON'T
NEED YOU!
I DON'T!
I DON'T!

AKITO!

IF HATORI
GOES BLIND,
IT'S YOUR
FAULT!

IT'S
YOUR
FAULT...!

IT'S YOUR
FAULT!
IT'S YOUR
FAULT!
IT'S YOUR
FAULT!

KANA-CHAN,
HURRY!
HELP
HATORI...

WHY
WOULD
...



EVEN
THOUGH
IT HURT
PEOPLE
AND MADE
THEM CRY...

...IF IT WAS
AN ORDER,
I WOULD
PEEL AWAY
PEOPLE'S
MEMORIES
WITHOUT
REMORSE.

IS
THIS MY
PUNISH-
MENT?



I NEVER
THOUGHT
I'D HAVE
TO ERASE
WITH MY
OWN HANDS...



...THE
MEMORIES
MOST
IMPORTANT
TO ME.

...THE
MEMORIES
OF THE
ONE PERSON
MOST
IMPORTANT
TO ME...

"SHE
WANTS
TO
FORGET."

IS
THIS
...

IT
WOULD
HAVE
BEEN
BETTER...

...IF
WE'D
NEVER
MET...

...
RETRI-
BUTION
?



SHE
WANTS...

I THINK
SHE TRULY
WANTS TO BE
RELEASED.

ISN'T IT
YOUR FINAL
DUTY TO
FREE HER
FROM THAT
PAIN?

HER
LOVE
FOR
YOU.

WHAT'S
HURTING HER
RIGHT NOW
IS HER
MEMORIES
OF YOU.



...IF
WE'D
NEVER
MET...

I THINK IT
WOULD
HAVE BEEN
BETTER...

...TO
FORGET.

I THINK...



...THEN IT'S
NOT RIGHT
FOR HER
TO SUFFER.



THANK
YOU...

...KANA...



IT'S
...

...ALL
RIGHT
NOW.

I'M THE ONE
WHO COULDN'T
PROTECT YOU.

BUT DESPITE THAT,
YOU THOUGHT
ONLY OF ME TILL
THE VERY END.

IF THAT
IS THE DEPTH
OF HER LOVE...

...IF THAT
WAS WHY
SHE BECAME
SO SICK...



...HAPPY
I MET
YOU,
HATORI.

NO,
I'M
THE
ONE
...

...WHO
SHOULD
APOLO-
GIZE.



...TECT...
YOU...

I
COULDN'T
...

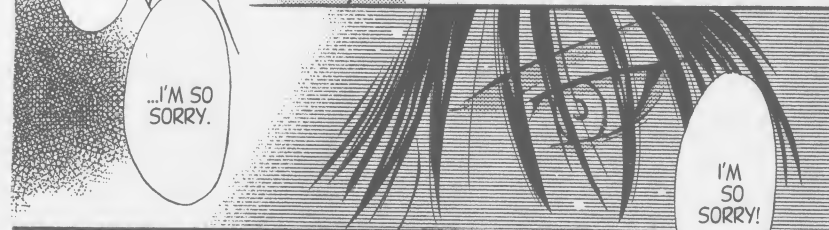
PRO...

I'M
SORRY
...

...I'M SO
SORRY.



...RY...



I'M
SO
SORRY!



...I'M...

HATORI...

PLEASE...

PLEASE...

HATORI-
SAN!



HATORI-
SAN...

I PRAY.

EVEN IF
I DIE
SURROUNDED
BY SNOW
THAT
NEVER
MELTS...

...I DON'T
CARE.

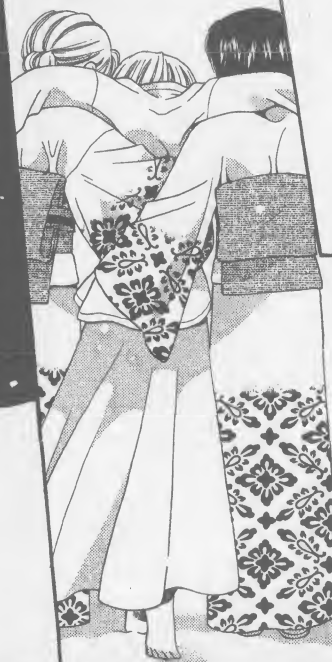
...PLEASE
LET HER...

...FIND
SOMEONE
WHO CAN
MAKE HER
HAPPY.

THERE'S
...

...NOTHING
THERE
TO HURT
ANYMORE.

OH,
GOD...





I'M
GLAD...

I'M MADLY
IN LOVE!

I WON'T!
NYAH.

JUST
DON'T
HAVE AN
AFFAIR!

I HADN'T
SEEN HER
IN TWO
YEARS.

SHE WAS
SMILING
THE SAME
WAY SHE
DID BACK
THEN.

...
CONGRATU-
LATIONS.

I'M
GLAD.

I SEE.
SO
SHE'S
...

...
HAPPY
NOW.

HEY, WHAT
KIND OF
GUY IS HE?

WELL,
HE'S BUSY
WITH
WORK.

AND WE'RE
HAVING
THE CEREMONY
IN HIS TOWN.

EVEN
IF...

...HE'S NOT AS
GOOD-LOOKING
AS HATORI-SAN.

*Ohh,
look what
you're saying!*

THE KIND
WHO CAN'T
LIE.

AND I FEEL
SO CALM
WHEN I'M
WITH HIM.

THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME
I'VE BEEN
BACK TO THE
SOHMA
HOUSE IN A
LONG TIME...

I WONDER
IF I'LL GET
TO SEE
HATORI-
SAN?

WELL,
I WAS
ALWAYS
IN LOVE
WITH HIM.

BUT IT
WAS JUST
ONE-SIDED.



IT
BECOMES
SPRING!

HUH?

...SNOW
MELTS,
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK IT
BECOMES?

...WHEN
SNOW
MELTS,
WHAT
DOES IT
BECOME?"

AH...UM,
WELL...
HMM.

WHEN
...



IT'S
STRANGE,
ISN'T IT?
BUT IT'S
TRUE.

NO MATTER
HOW COLD
IT IS NOW...

...SPRING
WILL
COME
AGAIN!

WITHOUT
FAIL.



IT'S
NOTHING.

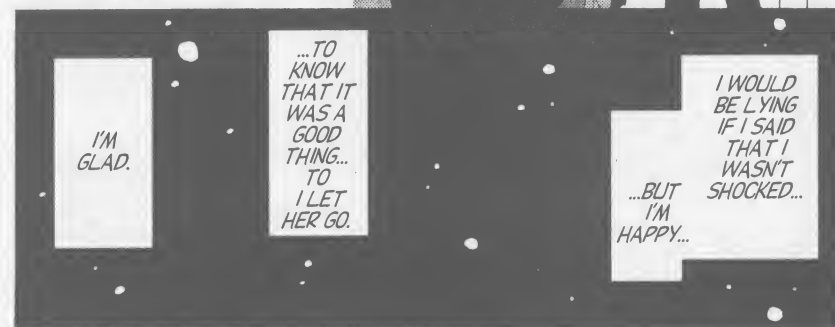
NO...

TIME
PASSES
SLOWLY...

?

...BUT
STEADILY.

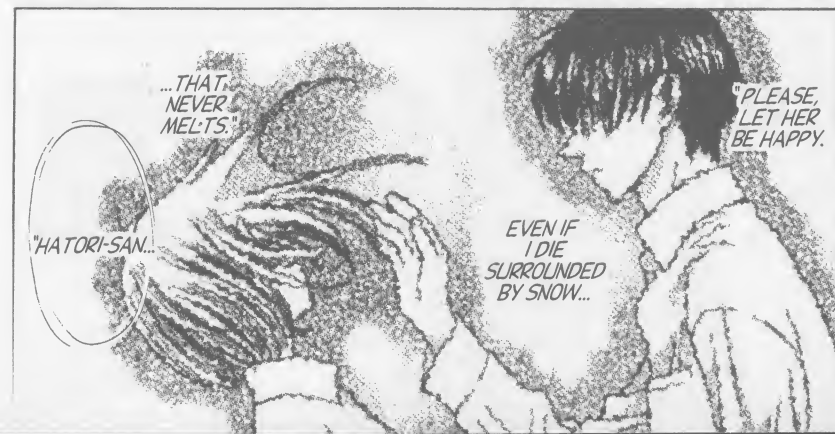
CONGRATU-
LATIONS...
ON WHAT?



I'M
GLAD.

...TO
KNOW
THAT IT
WAS A
GOOD
THING...
TO
I LET
HER GO.

I WOULD
BE LYING
IF I SAID
THAT I
WASN'T
SHOCKED...
...BUT
I'M
HAPPY...



...THAT
NEVER
MELTS.

"HATORI-SAN..."

"PLEASE,
LET HER
BE HAPPY.

EVEN IF
I DIE
SURROUNDED
BY SNOW...

Next time in...

Fruits Basket



3

Natsuki Takaya

Hot Springs and Cold Feet

It's Valentines Day and you know what that means—lots of chocolates for the cutest boys at school! But who will score the most-- hotheaded Kyo or "prince charming" Yuki? Of course the kind-hearted Tooru, guest of the Sohma family, has chocolates for everyone! But when White Day comes around, what will the Sohma family give back?

Fruits Basket Volume 3
Available Now



SOMEDAY...

...THE
SNOW
WILL
MELT.

NO MATTER
HOW COLD
IT IS NOW...

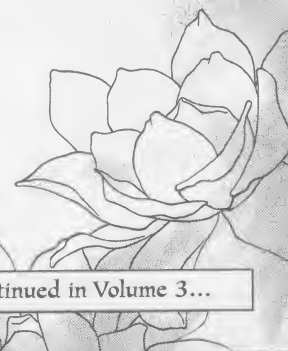


Is coffee
okay?

Here's
your
bag.

WITHOUT
FAIL.

WITHOUT
FAIL.



To be continued in Volume 3...

SOCIAL STATUS

The first player who is out of cards is dubbed the "Dai Fugo," or very rich man. Other variations on the rules call this person the President, King, or the Great Dalmuti. The last player to be left with any cards is known as the "Dai Hin Min," or very poor man. You can also use other derisive terms such as peon, beggar, scum, or a--hole.

While it's not part of the basic Dai Hin Min rules, many variations also give titles to the players based on their rank. So if you use "King" as your model, you might have King, Duke, Knight, Merchant, and Peon as your ranks. More importantly, the players of higher status are entitled to enjoy and generally abuse their power over the lower ranking players. You can also add to the fun by having players wear hats based on rank, with the leader wearing a crown and the loser wearing a dunce cap.

Between hands, players move seats based on ranks. The Dai Fugo selects the most comfortable chair; second place sits to the left, and so on around to the Dai Hin Min who sits to the Dai Fugo's right, probably on a crate or packing case.

The Dai Hin Min is responsible for shuffling, dealing and clearing away the cards when necessary. As the players are now seated clockwise in order of rank, the first card is dealt to the Dai Fugo, and so on down.

When the deal is complete, the Dai Hin Min must give his or her highest card to the Dai Fugo, and the Dai Fugo gives back in exchange any card that he or she does not want. Second place trades with second from last, etc. If there are an odd number of players, the middle player doesn't swap. (Variation: swap 2 cards per round)

The Dai Hin Min then leads any card or set of cards and the game continues as before.

END OF GAME

If scoring, set a target score (say 11 points). The game ends when someone reaches it.

VARIATIONS

Shibari

If a player follows a play with a card of the same suit, that player may declare "shibari," or "binding," which means that all other players must follow suit in order to play. For example, if Hanajima plays a seven of clubs and Tohru trumps it with a nine of clubs, she can declare shibari on clubs, and only clubs can be played. This variation can work with doubles and triples, too. Example—Kyo plays a six of clubs and a six of hearts. Uo trumps that with a eight of diamonds and an eight of hearts. She can declare shibari on hearts so that each subsequent play must have a heart plus any other. Double shibari or triple shibari can be declared if two or three suits match. Shibari's are only effective for the hand in which they are played.

Revolution!

If four of a kind are played, it is called a revolution. When this happens, the rank of cards is reversed. From that point on, lower values now trump higher values until there is another revolution.

Dai Fugo makes the rules!

Another fun variation is to let the Dai Fugo add an extra rule each round (or cancel an existing rule). The rules will likely make it easier for the Dai Fugo to keep winning or humiliating for the loser, but in Dai Hin Min, as in life, it's not always fair. But remember Karma—what comes around goes around, and you won't stay on top forever...

There are many other variations to Dai Hin Min and its Western equivalents, and the rules are slightly different depending on whoever you ask. For other variations, and rules on similar games, visit www.pagat.com, the web's leading resource for card games.

How to Play Rich Man, Poor Man (Dai Hin Min / Dai Fugo)

OBJECTIVE

The aim is to get rid of all your cards as soon as possible.

PLAYERS AND CARDS

About 4 to 7 people using a standard 54 card pack with jokers. The suits are irrelevant and the cards rank, from high to low with deuces high: 2 A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3. Jokers are wild.

DEAL

The game is played clockwise. All the cards are dealt out. Some players may have one more than others.

PLAY

The player to dealer's left starts by leading (face up) any single card or any set of cards of equal rank (for example, three fives). Each player in turn must then either pass (i.e. not play any cards), or play face up a card or set of cards which beats the previous play.

A single card is beaten by any higher single card. A set of cards can only be beaten by a higher set containing the same number of cards. So for example, if the previous player played two sixes, you can beat this with two kings, or two sevens, but not with a single king, and not with three sevens (though you could play two of them and hang onto the third).

It is not necessary to beat the previous play just because you can -- passing is always allowed. Also passing does not prevent you from playing the next time your turn comes round.

The play continues as many times around the table as necessary until someone makes a play which everyone else passes. All the cards played are then turned face down and put to one side, and the player who played last (and highest) in the previous "trick" starts again by leading any card or set of equal cards.

For example the play might go:

Tohru leads with a pair of fours. Kyo follows with a pair of sevens. Uo passes. Hanajima follows with a pair of Tens.

Tohru passes. Kyo plays a pair of Jacks. Uo passes.

Hanajima passes. Tohru

passes. Kyo then starts again by leading any card or set.

When a player whose turn it is to play has no more cards left,

the turn passes to the next player in rotation.

Therefore in the example, if the two Jacks were Kyo's last two cards, he would sit out the rest of the round and it would then be Uo's turn to play anything.

Jokers are wild and are equal in rank to whatever card they are played with.

For scoring purposes, whoever goes out first gets 2 points, second out gets one point and the rest of the players get no points.



Year of the Rat: Behind the Whiskers

Rat

Years*: 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972,

1984, 1996, 2008, 2020, 2032

Positive Qualities: charming, imaginative, ambitious, sentimental, generous (to loved ones), frugal

Negative Qualities: hot-tempered, overly critical, prone to gossip, pack-rat
Suitable Jobs: sales, writing, publicity
Compatible With: Dragons, Monkeys, Oxen

Must Avoid: Horses (and cats)

Ruling Hours: 11 PM to 1 AM

Season: Winter

Ruling Month: December

Sign Direction: North

Fixed Element: Water

Corresponding Western

Sign: Sagittarius

I'M
NOT THAT
CRITICAL



The rat was at a disadvantage during the Zodiac race, but with his nimble abilities and smarts was able to land the coveted first place spot in the Chinese Zodiac. For people born in the year of the rat, this win spells some degree of financial freedom (if they don't marry a sheep), but their hearts will always remain true to family and friends. After all, friends are one thing that the rat can never have enough of.

Cheerful and always optimistic, Rats love living in groups and will gladly let a friend or relative crash for any amount of time, be it a night or ten years. Freeloading is not an issue because a rat can always find some kind of work that needs to be done. Even when someone swindles them, rats seldom hold a grudge. They simply just lock the bad

memory away in their hearts. Keeping their loved ones close and happy is what matters most. Ironically though, rats also hold onto an exorbitant amount of trinkets and mementos from past experiences. This 'pack rat' mentality is detrimental though since rats often pick up or buy things they really never needed in the first place.

An interesting facet of the rat's personality is that they love to ask questions and have great memories, though they often single out the small nit-picky details and gloss over the other nicer points.

It is a minor character flaw, but this cunning insight does tend make a person born in the rat year a particularly excellent writer.

While misfortune does not befall the rat often, whenever it does strike, a rat will have little to fear since an escape route was always carefully factored into their clever plans. Potential dangers are sized-up and quickly faced down with their fear-less attitude, cool demeanor and quick wits. For the rat, perseverance is one of their keys to success. After all, no matter how fleeting success is...success is still success.

Celebrity Rats

Ben Affleck
Mandy Moore
Alice Cooper
Scarlett Johansson
Rizzo the Rat

Hm... On second thought, perhaps publicity isn't the job for me.



* Note: If you were born in January or early February, then chances are you are probably the animal of the preceding year. The only way to know for certain is to know on which day Chinese New Year's was held. For example, this year (2004) the Chinese New Year began on January 22, so the first three weeks of January were still year of the sheep.

131.3	pu-pu-pu: (stifled laughter)
135.1	bag: Supermarket- Come on by!
136.4	pori-pori: scratch-scratch
138.2	pashii x3: fwip x 3
139.1	kashi-kashi-kashi:



ANGER MARKS

THESE LITTLE "PLUS SIGNS" ARE MEANT TO REPRESENT A THROBBING VEIN. OVER THE YEARS, THESE HAVE BECOME A VISUAL SHORTCUT IN MANGA FOR ANGER. IN THE FRUITS BASKET ANIME, SHIGURE POKES FUN AT HIS EASY GOING PERSONALITY BY HOLDING AN ANGER MARK IN FRONT OF HIS FACE TO SHOW HIS RANGE.

139.6	munch munch munch
141.4	pata: clack
150.1	don: thump
150.5	gashin: crash
150.5	zun-zun-zun-zun: stomp stomp
151.2a	kya-kya-kya...: bicker bicker
151.2b	zun-zun-zun-zun: stomp stomp
151.3	zun-zun-zun: stomp stomp
152.2	pori-pori: scratch-scratch
154.1	BASHIN: SLAM
156.1	HAX2: pantx2
170.2	tsuru: slip
170.5	gan: thunk
171.1a	dosaa: thud
171.1b	bon: poof
185.1	dosaa: thud

86.3b	dotann: thump
86.5	basah: flutter
87.2	zawa-zawa: chatter chatter
87.3	zawa-zawa-zawa: chatter chatter
87.4	gyuu: clench
88.1	kiran: sparkle
89.2	go: punch
91.1	pasha: flash
92.3	gabaa: flop
97.5	pin-pon-pan: (intercom bell)
98.5	suu: fwip

ZAWA-ZAWA



THE SOUND OF A CROWD. IF YOU SEE "ZAWA" IN A CLASSROOM, IT PROBABLY MEANS THAT CLASS HASN'T STARTED YET. EITHER THAT, OR A

TEACHER CAN'T CONTROL HIS OR HER STUDENTS!

99.2	dokii: badum (heartbeat)
99.5	kiri: sparkle
100.1	dokii: badum (heartbeat)
100.2	doki-doki: badum-badum (heartbeat)
102.1	gara: clatter
104.1	dohki-dohki: badum-badum (pounding heartbeat)
104.2	dohki-dohki: badum-badum (pounding heartbeat)
105.1	kara-kara: rattle rattle
106.3	ha-ha-fu: huff-huff-pant
106.4	pata-pata: pitter patter
106.5	kara-kara: rattle rattle
107.4	hah: gasp
110.2	dokii: badum (heartbeat)
109.4	pata-pata: pitter patter
113.3	kara-kara: rattle rattle
121.3	kochi: plunk
122.1	dokii: badum (heartbeat)
122.5a	"pu, bu: (stifled laughter)"
122.5b	pu-pu-pu: (stifled laughter)
127.1	dokin: badum (heartbeat)
127.2	dokin: badum (heartbeat)
127.3	dokin-dokin: badum badum (heartbeat)
129.2	GU: SNORE

SOUND EFFECT INDEX

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE SOUND EFFECTS USED IN FRUITS BASKET. EACH SOUND IS LABELED BY PAGE AND PANEL NUMBER, SEPARATED BY A PERIOD. THE FIRST DESCRIPTION IS THE PHONETIC READING OF THE JAPANESE, AND IS FOLLOWED BY THE EQUIVALENT ENGLISH SOUND OR A DESCRIPTION.

34.5	fura-fura: dazed	9.2a	basaa-basaa: tumble
35.2	da-da-da-da-da: dash	9.2b	gonn: bonk
35.3	dan: whack	10.3	doko: dump
36.3	dohki-dohki: badum-badum (pounding heartbeat)	12.4	pata-pata: pitter patter
37.4	jin: teary stare	12.5	gara: clatter
42.1	zawa-zawa-zawa: chatter chatter	14.4	bag: Crunchies
43.1	zawa-zawa: chatter chatter	15.2	bari-bari; pari-pari: munch crunch
43.3	gann: wham	17.1	dohki-dohki: badum-badum (pounding heartbeat)
43.4	mera-mera-mera: crackle crackle (burning rage)	17.4	gotoh: clunk
47.3	gan: wham	18.4	ga-gan: (shock)
47.4	zawa-zawa-zawa: chatter chatter	19.1	kandou: impressed
48.3	biku: cee!	19.4	pata-pata: pitter patter
48.4	doki-doki: badum-badum (heartbeat)		
52.3a	zuruben: slip bam		
53.3b	gann: wham		
55.3	kiss (in german)		
56.1	dah: dash		
60.5	bikuu: cee!		
64.2	gaa: blush		
67.1	zawa-zawa: chatter chatter		
72.2	gya-gya: chatter chatter		
75.2	pachii: spark		
75.3	fuii: turn		
76.2	keke: cackle		
77.2	don: bam		
81.1	ninaka: shoop		
81.5	piku: twitch		
82.6	dota-dota: clatter-crash		
83.2	gachan-tata-dota-bacha: bang-clatter-crash-bang		
84.3	pah: pop		
85.4	gashaa: grab		
86.3a	bon: poof		
		20.1	patan: close (door)
		22.4	gara: clatter
		22.6	don: ta-da!
		24.3	gyaa-gyaa: bicker
		27.2	zusa: trip
		27.3	gaba: (panic)
		28.3	pasa: plop
		33.3a	carton: You'll drink it all day long! Maibuum Milk. There's just not enough!
		33.3b	patan: close (door)
		34.3	GU: SNORE
		34.4	hiiii: cringe



DOKI-DOKI

ONE OF THE MOST COMMON SOUND EFFECTS IN MANGA, "DOKI-DOKI" IS THE SOUND OF A POUNDING HEARTBEAT. IT'S USED TO INDICATE A TENSE, EMOTIONAL SITUATION.